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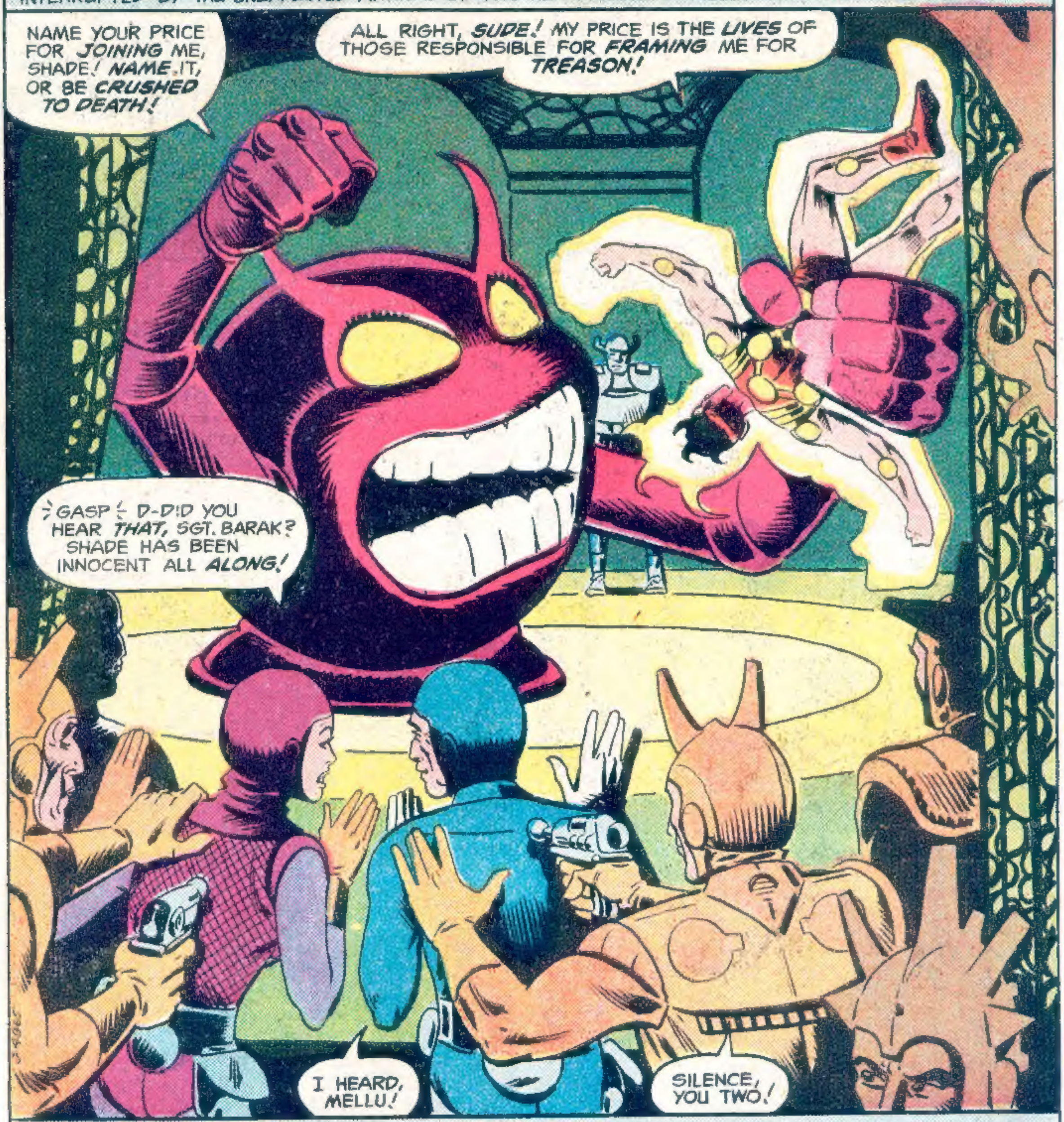
SHADE, the CHANGING MAN meets KHAOS, THE LORD of TERROR!

SUDE'S EFFORTS TO TERRORIZE *SHADE* INTO BECOMING HIS PARTNER IN CRIME AND CONQUEST ARE INTERRUPTED BY THE UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF TWO NEW PRISONERS: *MELLU LORON* AND *SERGEANT BARAK*...



CONCEPT AND ART BY STEVE DITKO * DIALOGUE BY MICHAEL FLEISHER * EDITED BY JACK C. HARRIS
LETTERED BY BEN ODA * COLORED BY JERRY SERPE

SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN, Vol. 2, No. 6, Apr./May, 1978. Published bi-monthly by DC COMICS INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Copyright © 1978 by DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737. Annual subscription rate $2.50. Outside U.S.A. $3.50

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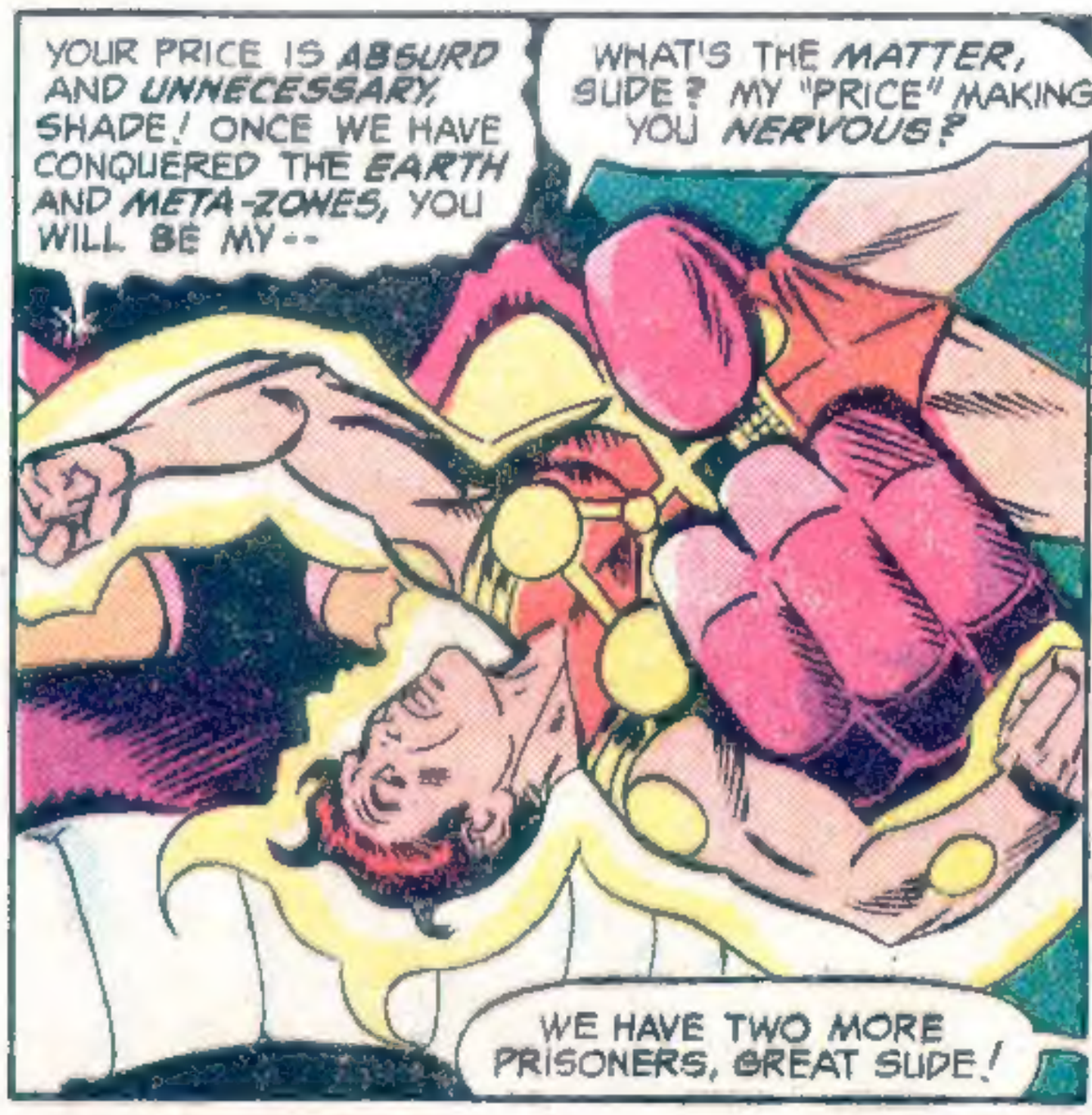
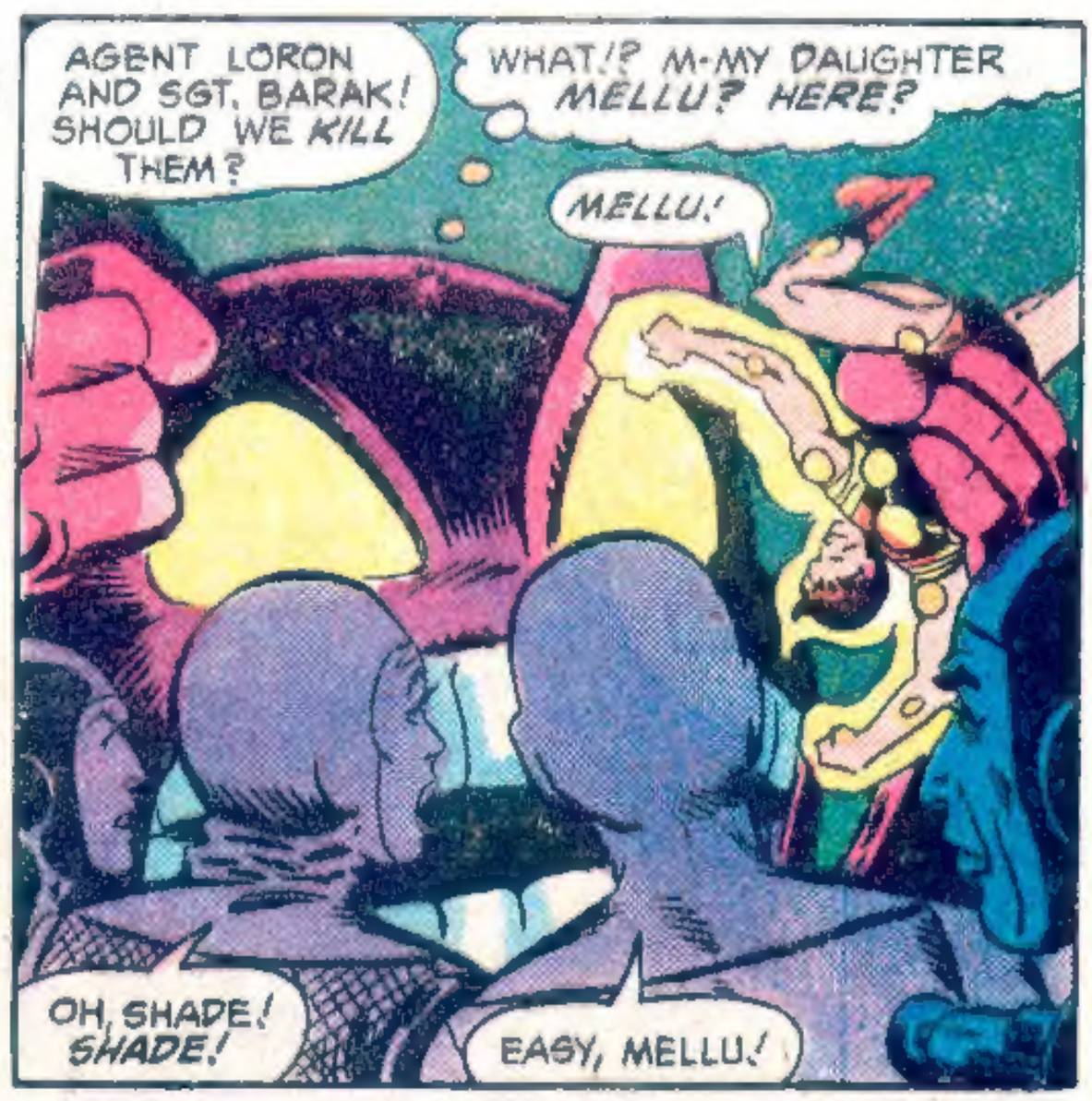
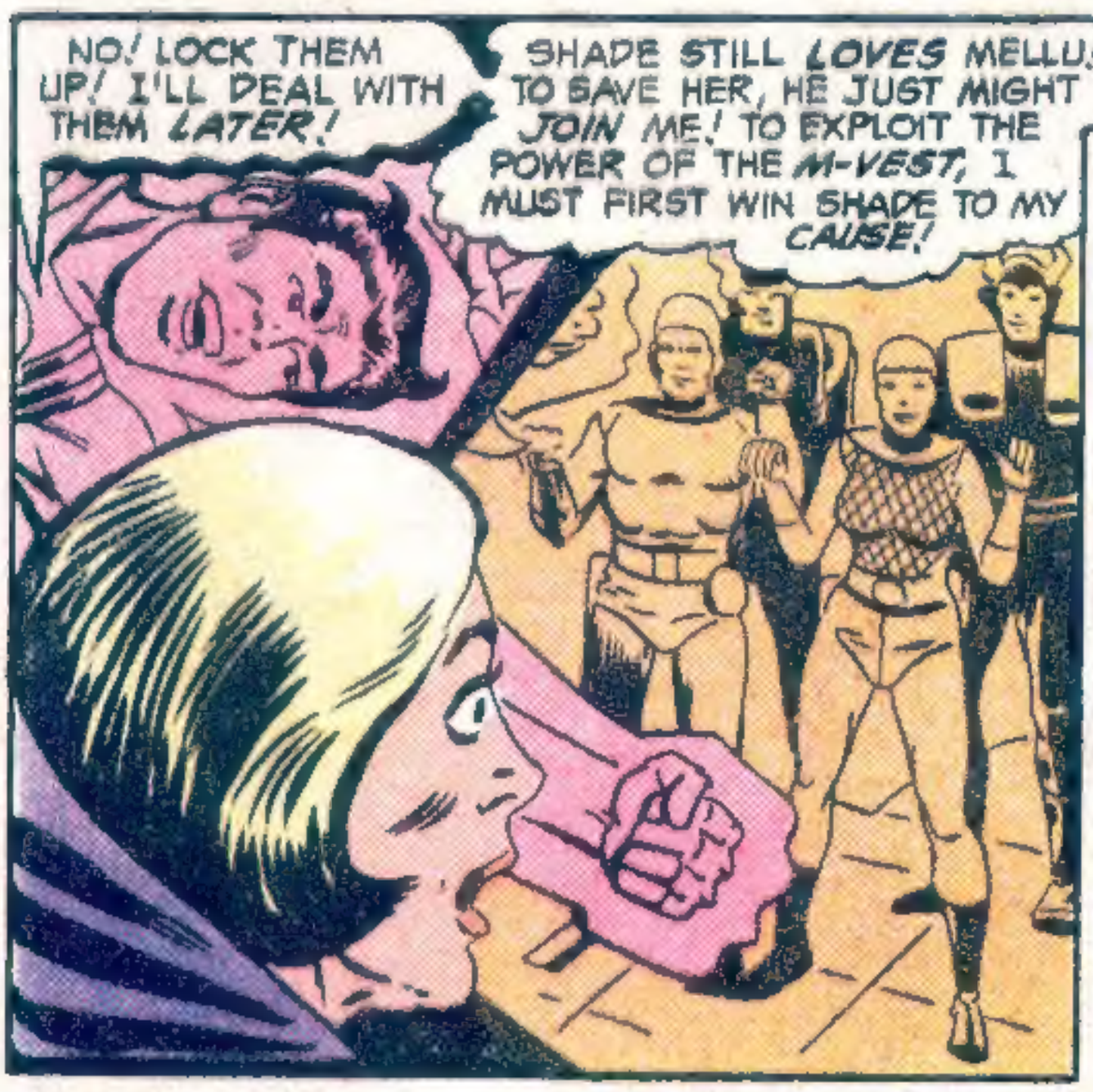
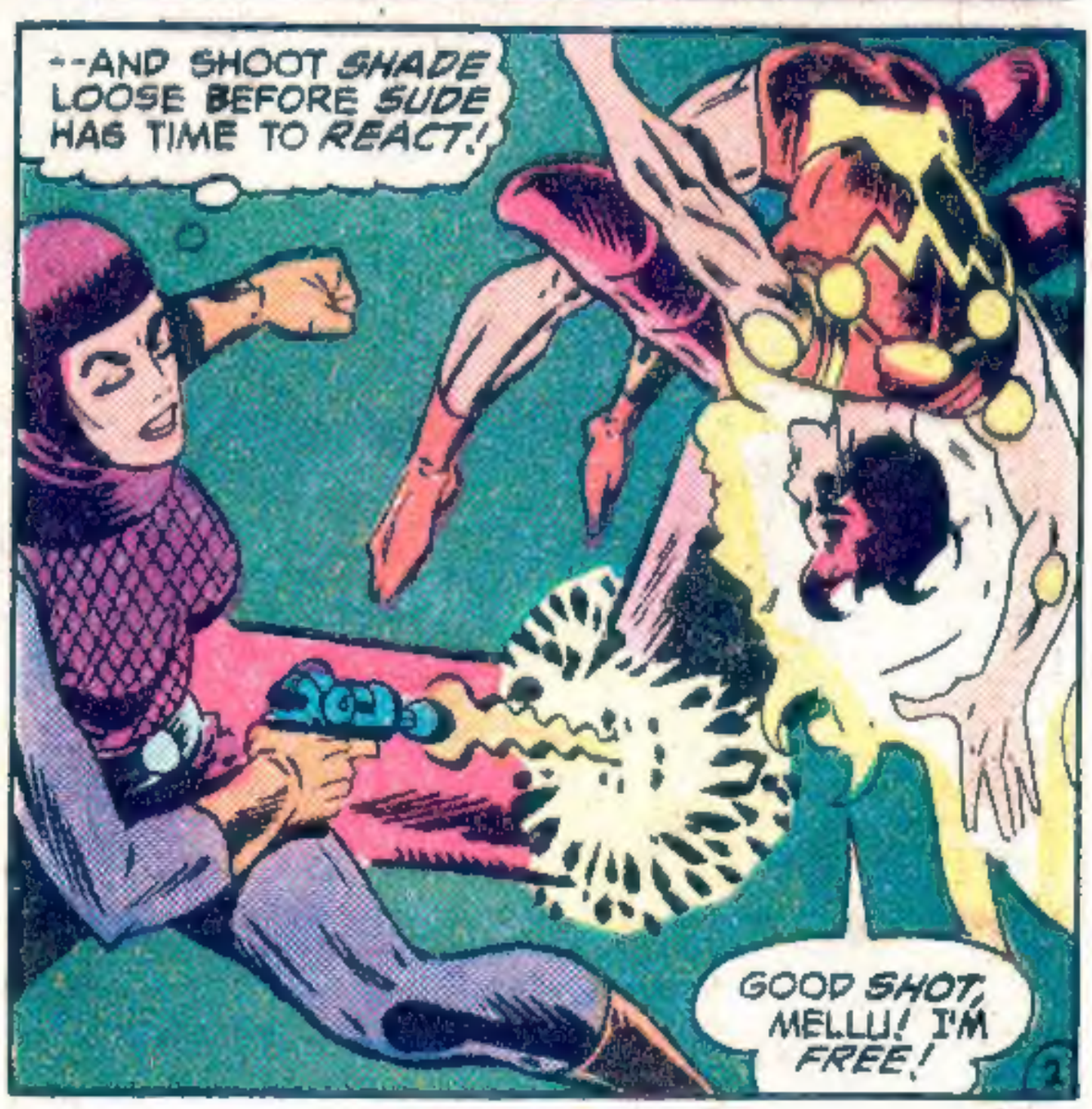

YOUR PRICE IS ABSURD AND UNNECESSARY, SHADE! ONCE WE HAVE CONQUERED THE EARTH AND META-ZONES, YOU WILL BE MY--
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SUDE? MY "PRICE" MAKING YOU NERVOUS?
WE HAVE TWO MORE PRISONERS, GREAT SUDE!

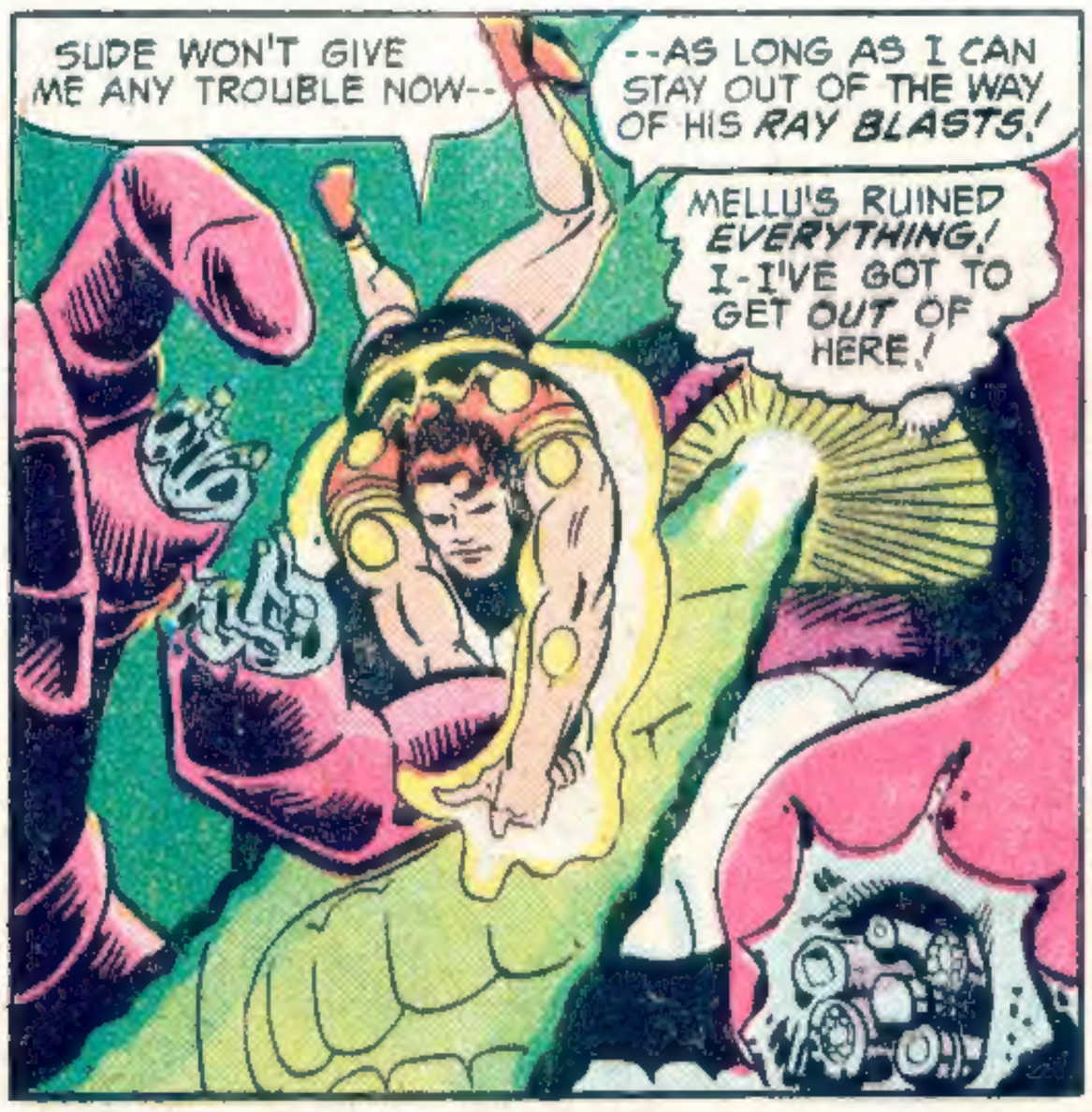

AGENT LORON AND SGT. BARAK! SHOULD WE KILL THEM?
WHAT!? M-MY DAUGHTER MELLU? HERE?
MELLU!
OH, SHADE! SHADE!
EASY, MELLU!

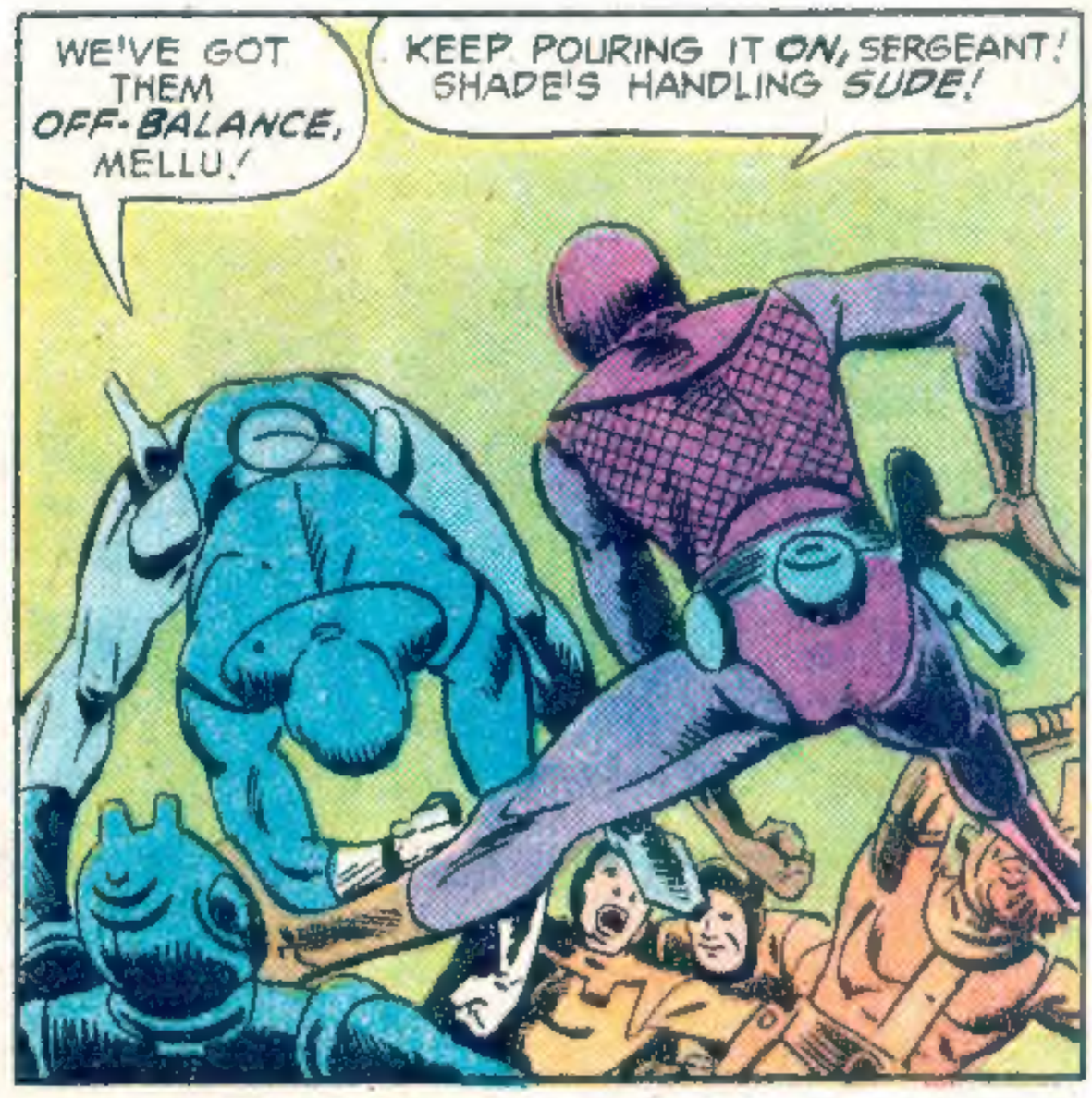

NO! LOCK THEM UP! I'LL DEAL WITH THEM LATER!
SHADE STILL LOVES MELLU! TO SAVE HER, HE JUST MIGHT JOIN ME! TO EXPLOIT THE POWER OF THE M-VEST, I MUST FIRST WIN SHADE TO MY CAUSE!

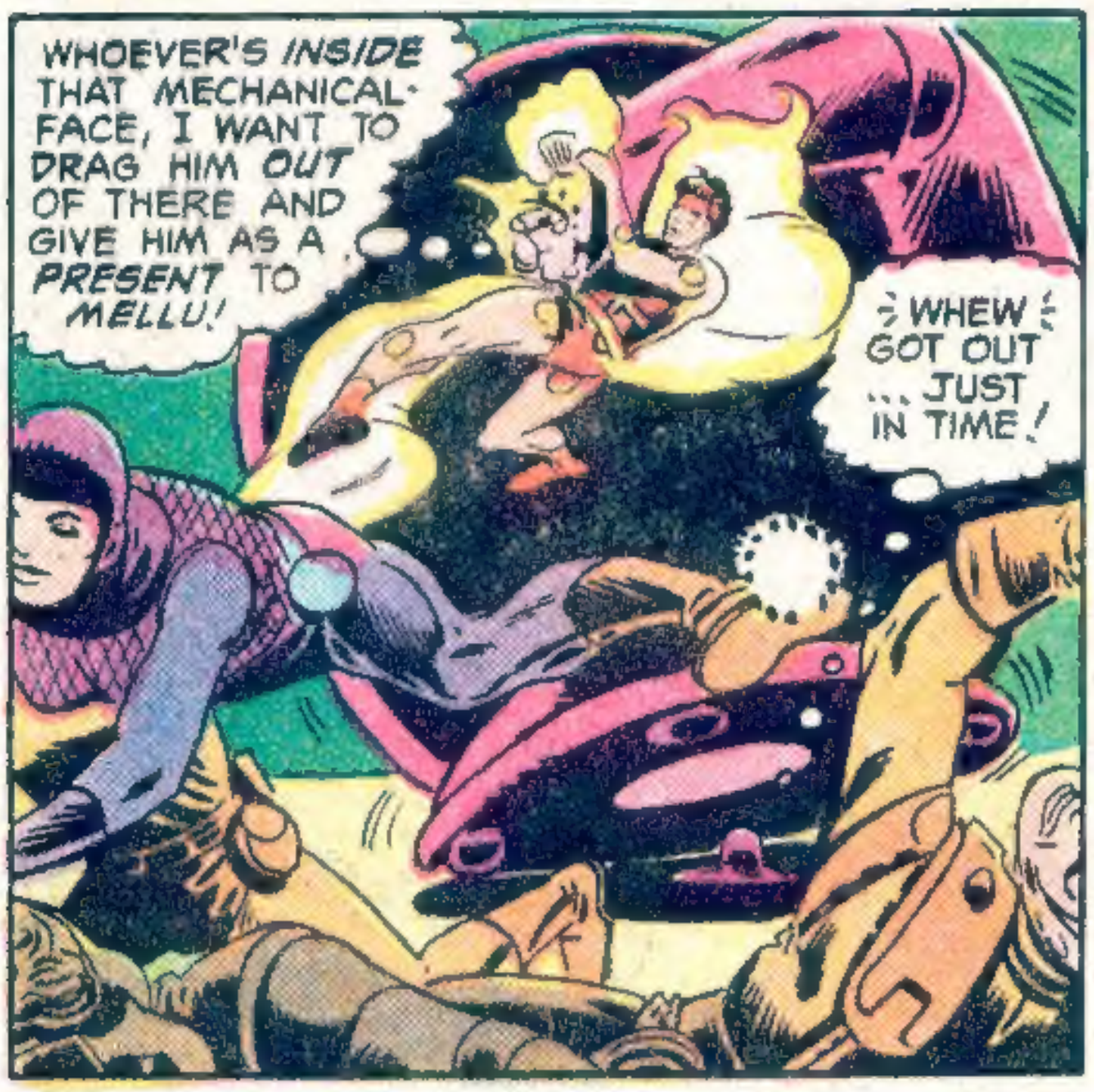
AGENT LORON'S LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS, SHADE! JOIN ME, AND--
SGT. BARAK IS GIVING ME EYE AND FINGER SIGNALS! HE'S GOING TO HIT THEM HIGH--

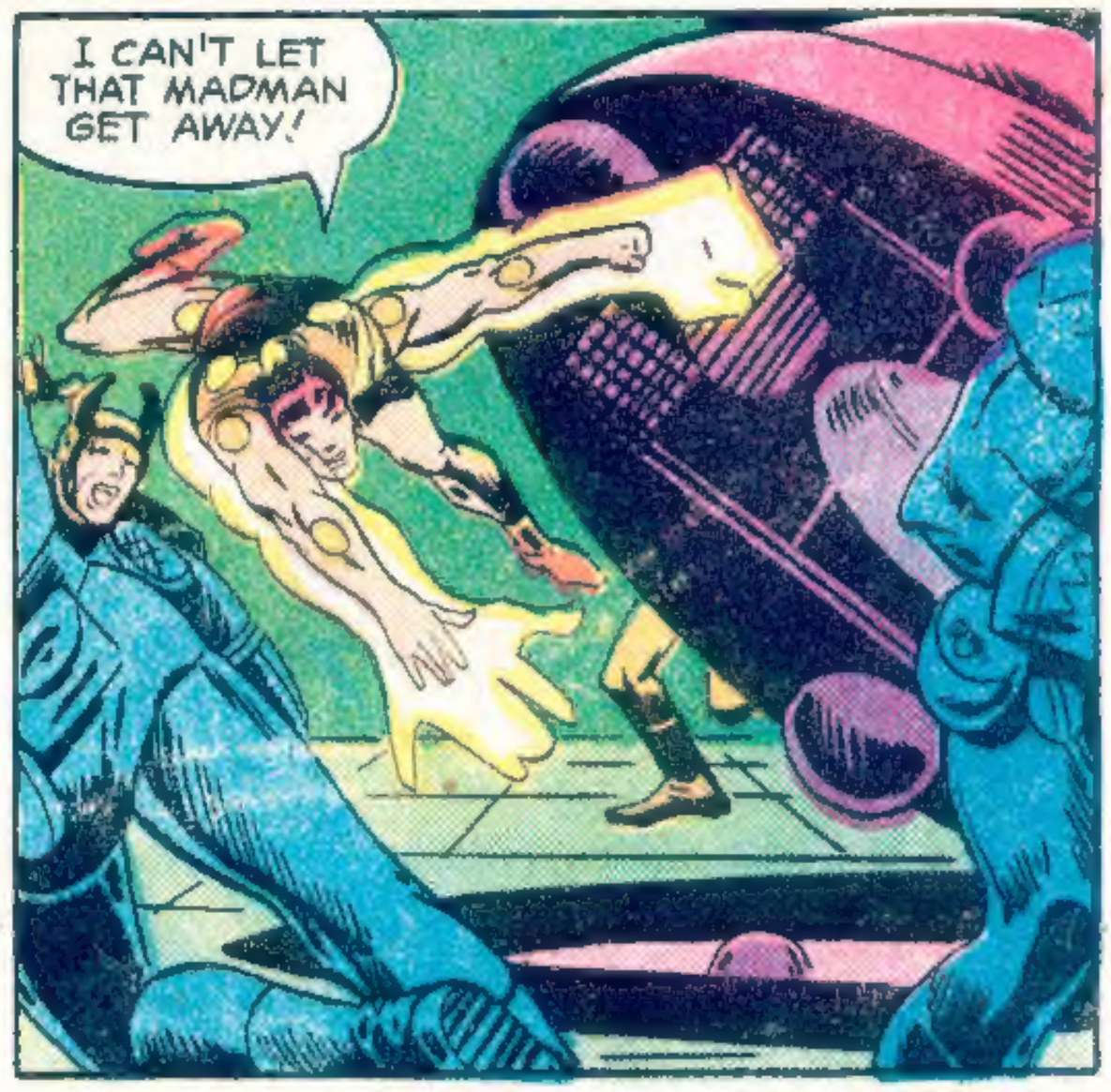
--WHILE I HIT THEM LOW!
I'VE GOT TO GET MY HANDS ON THAT BLASTER...

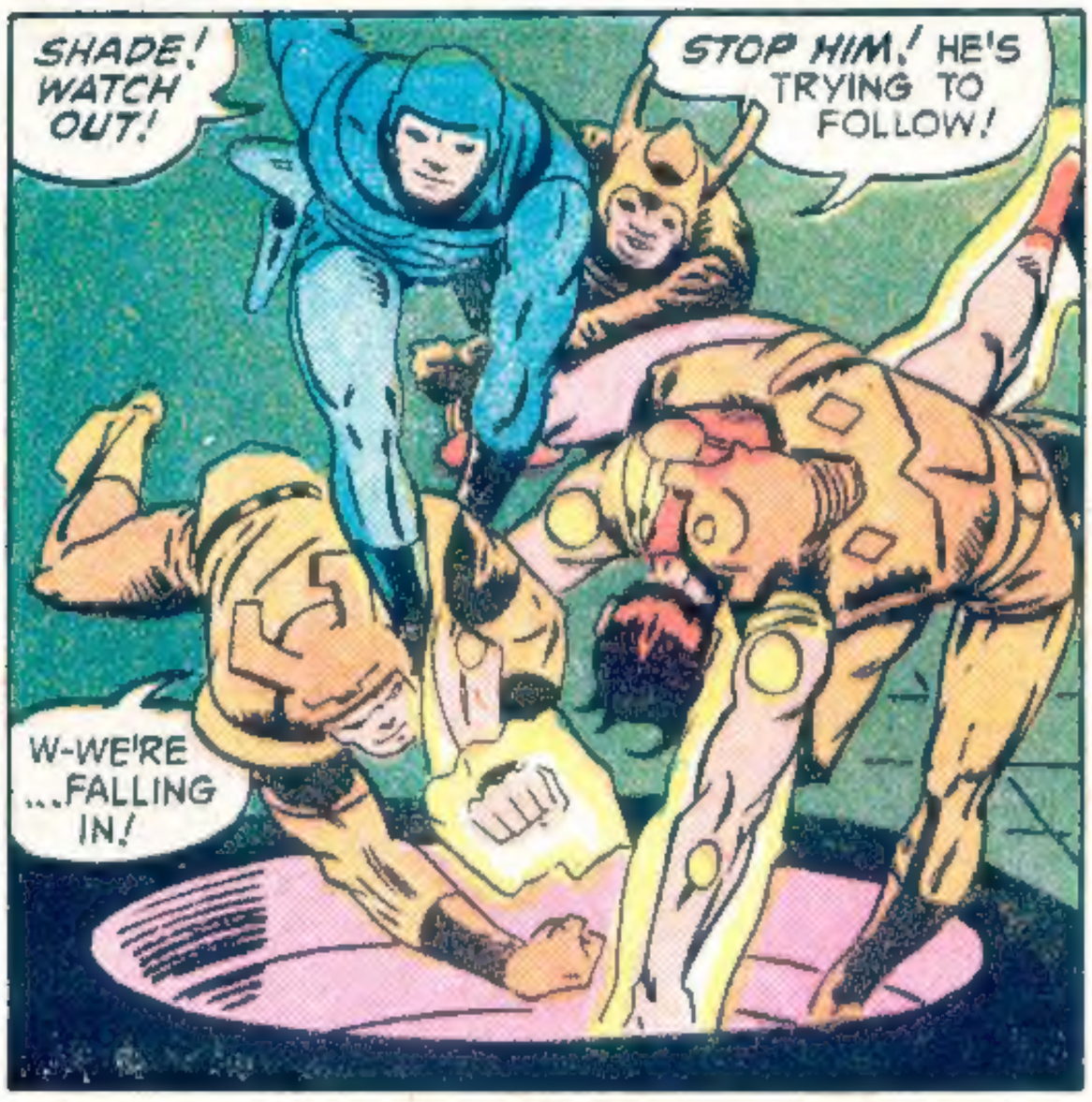

--AND SHOOT SHADE LOOSE BEFORE SUDE HAS TIME TO REACT!
GOOD SHOT, MELLU! I'M FREE!


SUDE WON'T GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE NOW--
--AS LONG AS I CAN STAY OUT OF THE WAY OF HIS RAY BLASTS!
MELLU'S RUINED EVERYTHING! I-I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

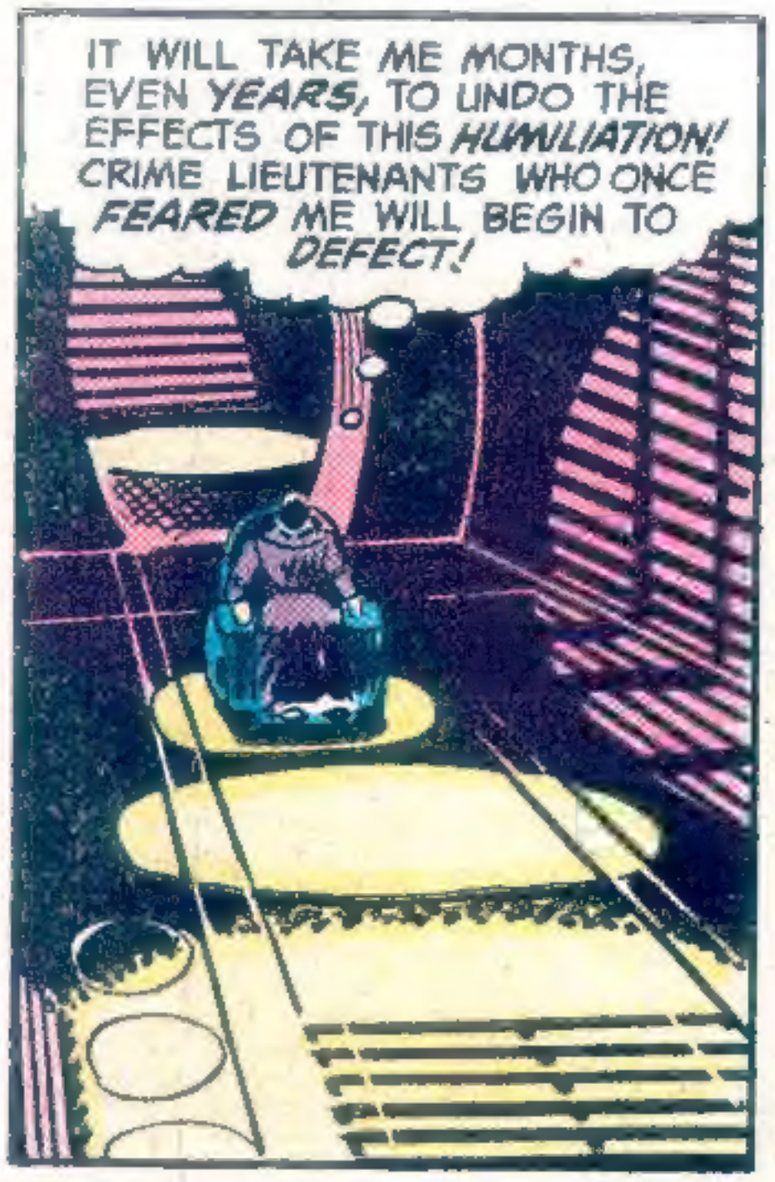

WE'VE GOT THEM OFF-BALANCE, MELLU!
KEEP POURING IT ON, SERGEANT! SHADE'S HANDLING SUDE!

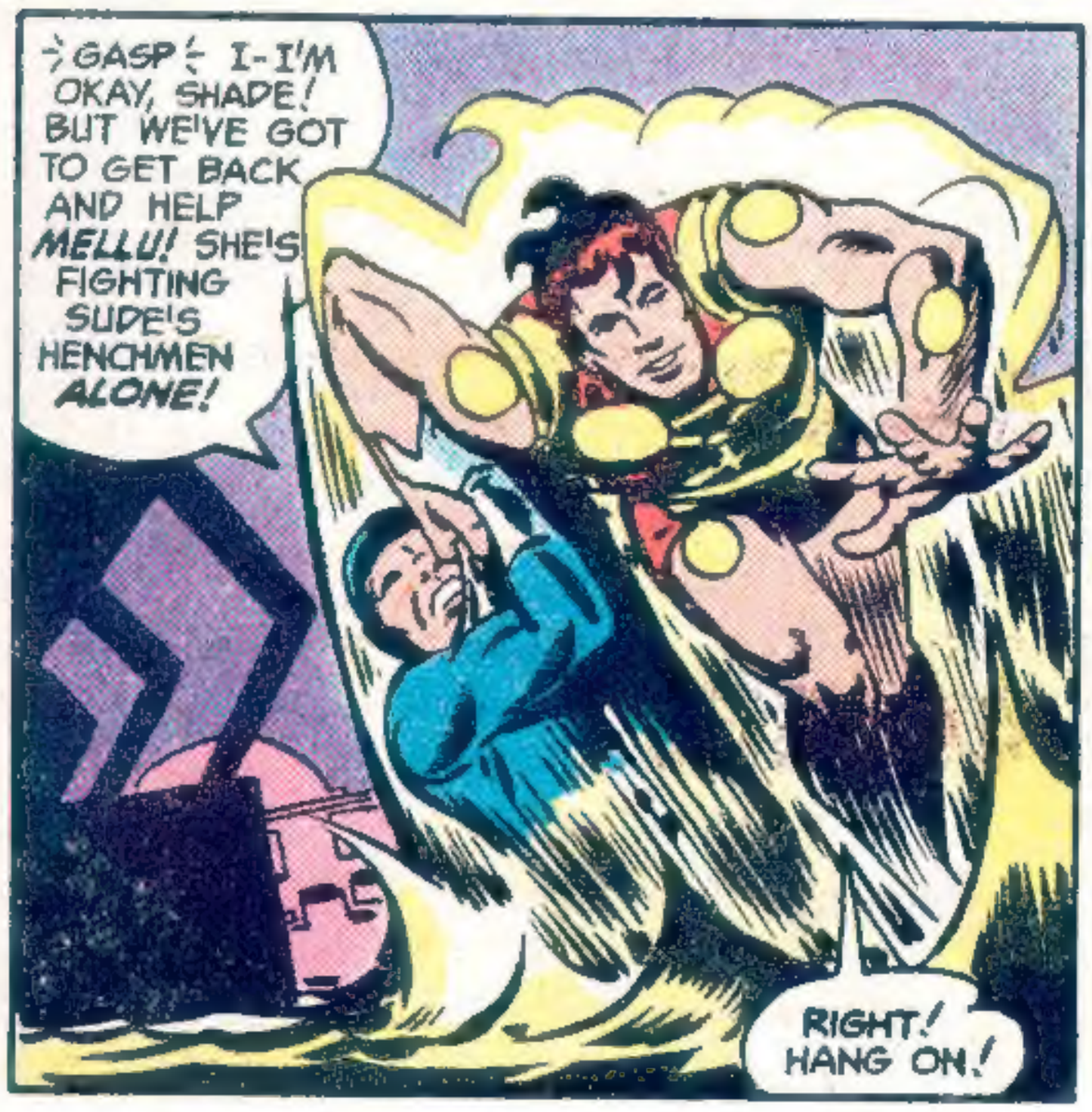

WHOEVER'S INSIDE THAT MECHANICAL FACE, I WANT TO DRAG HIM OUT OF THERE AND GIVE HIM AS A PRESENT TO MELLU!
WHEW GOT OUT ... JUST IN TIME!


I CAN'T LET THAT MADMAN GET AWAY!


SHADE! WATCH OUT!
STOP HIM! HE'S TRYING TO FOLLOW!
W-WE'RE ...FALLING IN!

GO ON, SHADE! GET AFTER HIM! I CAN HANDLE THESE STOOGES!
I CAN HEAR SOUNDS ECHOING DOWN THIS TUNNEL! HE CAN'T GET AWAY NOW!





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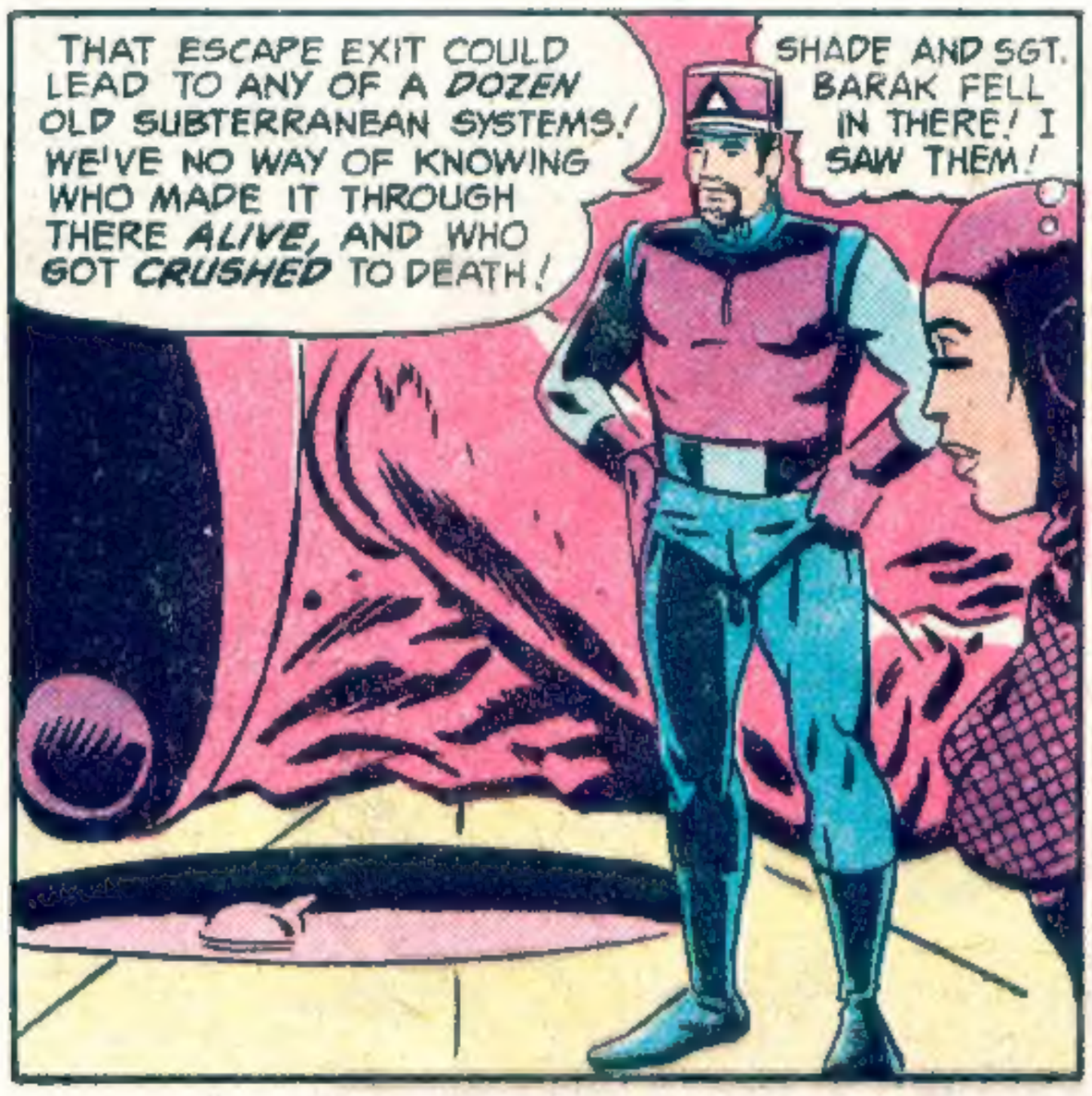
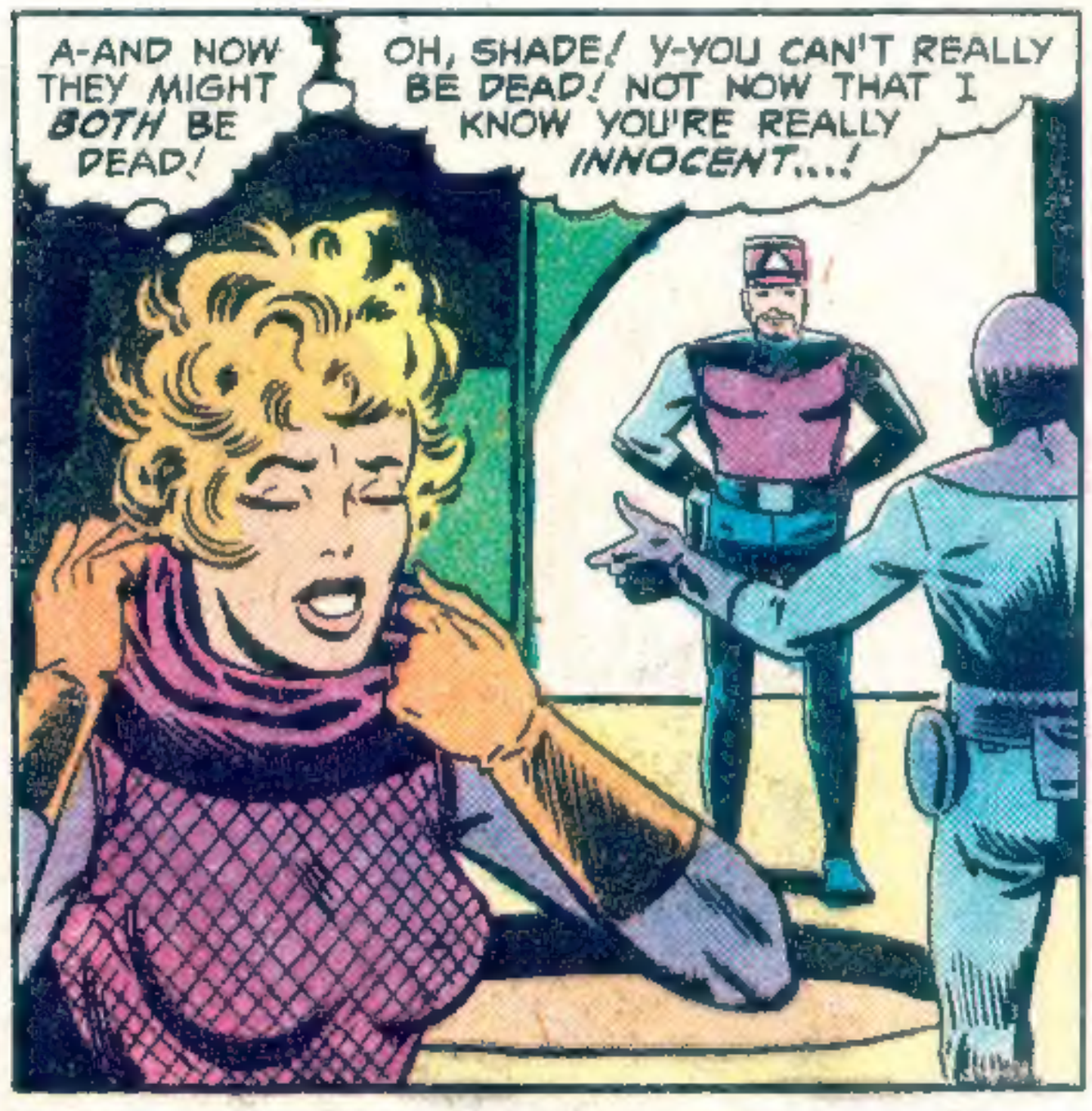

THAT ESCAPE EXIT COULD LEAD TO ANY OF A DOZEN OLD SUBTERRANEAN SYSTEMS! WE'VE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHO MADE IT THROUGH THERE ALIVE, AND WHO GOT CRUSHED TO DEATH!
SHADE AND SGT. BARAK FELL IN THERE! I SAW THEM!


A-AND NOW THEY MIGHT BOTH BE DEAD!
OH, SHADE! Y-YOU CAN'T REALLY BE DEAD! NOT NOW THAT I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY INNOCENT...!

B-BUT IF YOU ARE DEAD, SHADE, I SWEAR-- I'LL CLEAR YOUR NAME! I'LL--
AGENT LORON, I'LL WANT A FULL REPORT ON YOUR INVOLVEMENT HERE!

MEANWHILE SHADE IS FILLED IN ON SGT. BARAK AND MELLU'S ACTIVITIES...
Y-YOU MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO LET MELLU AND EVERYONE ELSE THINK YOU'RE DEAD!?
FOR THE TIME BEING, YES! YOU FORGET, OFFICIALLY I'M STILL UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE! I'VE STILL GOT TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE!

ALL RIGHT THEN! I'M GOING TO HELP YOU!
SGT. BARAK! YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIE LOW FOR AWHILE, SHADE, YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE TO DO YOUR LEGWORK FOR YOU! I'M VOLUNTEERING!
ALL RIGHT, BARAK! BUT BE CAREFUL!

YOU STAY PUT! I'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS I'VE FOUND SOME CLOTHES AND A SAFE PLACE TO STAY!
HE'S A BRAVE OLD SOLDIER! AND I'M GOING TO NEED HIS HELP!

NEWS OF SUDE'S DEFEAT SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT THE META-ZONE...

NO ONE HAS SEEN ANY *SIGN* OF SUDE SINCE THEY BUSTED UP HIS *HIDEOUT!* I'M BETTING HE'S *DEAD!*

WE'RE ON OUR *OWN* NOW, FREE TO PLAN OUR OWN *ACTIONS*, MAKE OUR OWN *DEALS!*

I'M GONNA START OFFERING MY SERVICES TO THE HIGHEST *BIDDER!*

HA HA! SUDE HAS *FAILED*, JUST AS I ALWAYS *PREDICTED* HE WOULD! BUT I, *KHAOS*, WILL *SUCCEED!* HA HA HA!

AND IN THE SECRET CRIME ACADEMY SET UP BY SUDE TO TRAIN AGENTS FOR THE CONQUEST OF THE EARTH-ZONE...

WITH *SUDE* GONE, WE HAVE NO *CHOICE!* WE'LL HAVE TO *DISBAND!*

ALL OUR TRAINING IS *USELESS* HERE ON META! WHAT SHOULD WE *DO*, DR. Z. Z.?

FOR THE TIME BEING, MY PUPILS, I COUNSEL *PATIENCE!*

BUT BE ADVISED THAT EVEN NOW I AM FORMULATING A *PLAN* FOR THE UTILIZATION OF ALL YOUR *TALENTS* AND *AMBITIONS!* WHEN THE TIME IS RIPE, WE WILL ALL ACT *TOGETHER!*

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOME OF A METAN COUNCIL LEADER...

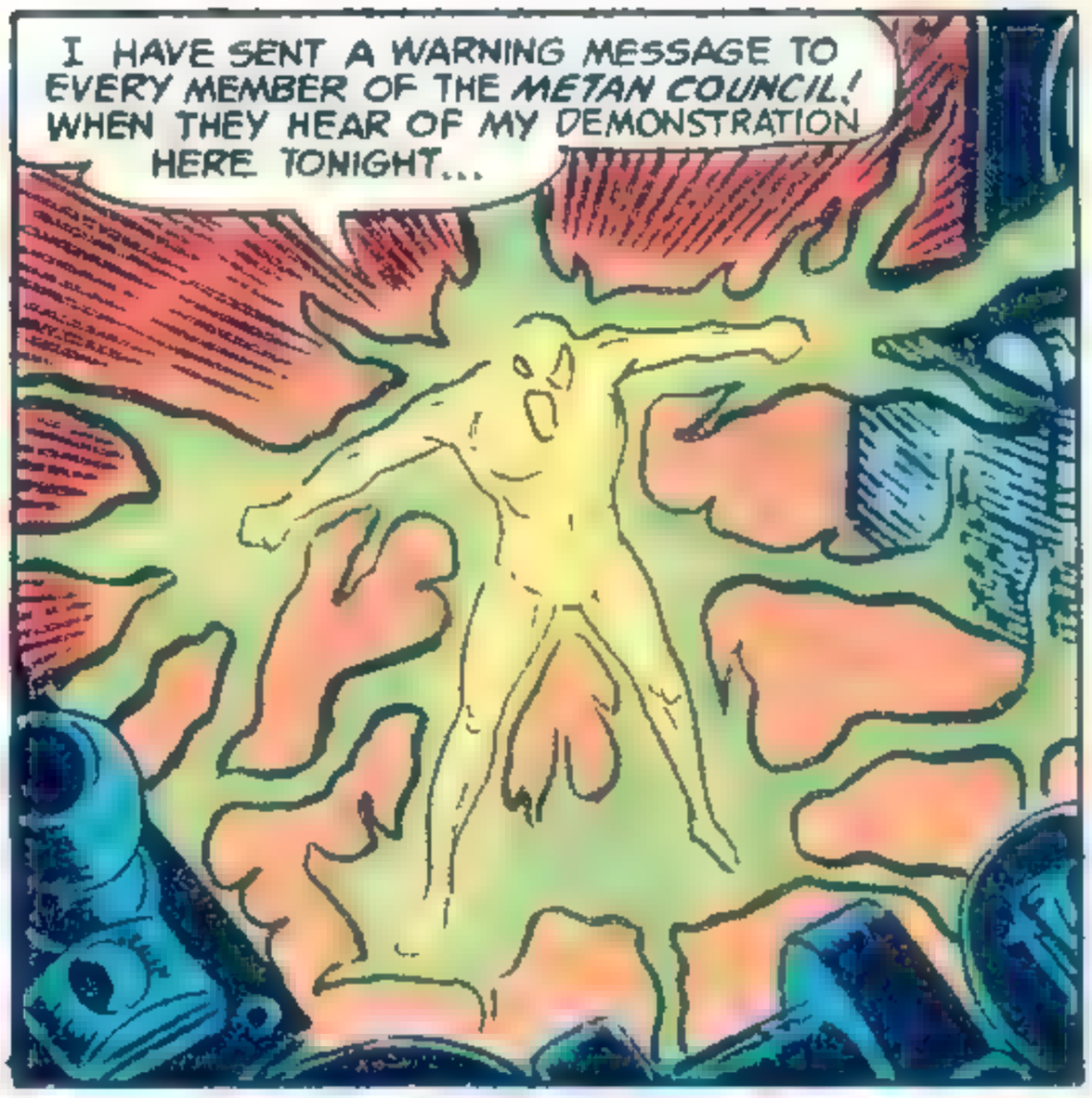
GREETINGS, YOUR HONOR! TURN, IF YOU DARE, AND BID HELLO TO *KHAOS*, LORD OF *TERROR!*

WHA--!? W-WHAT DO YOU--

HA HA! WHAT DO I *WANT?* TO MAKE YOU MY FIRST *EXAMPLE* OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO *ALL* OF META UNLESS IT FALLS TO ITS *KNEES* AND ACCEPTS ME AS ITS *RULER!*

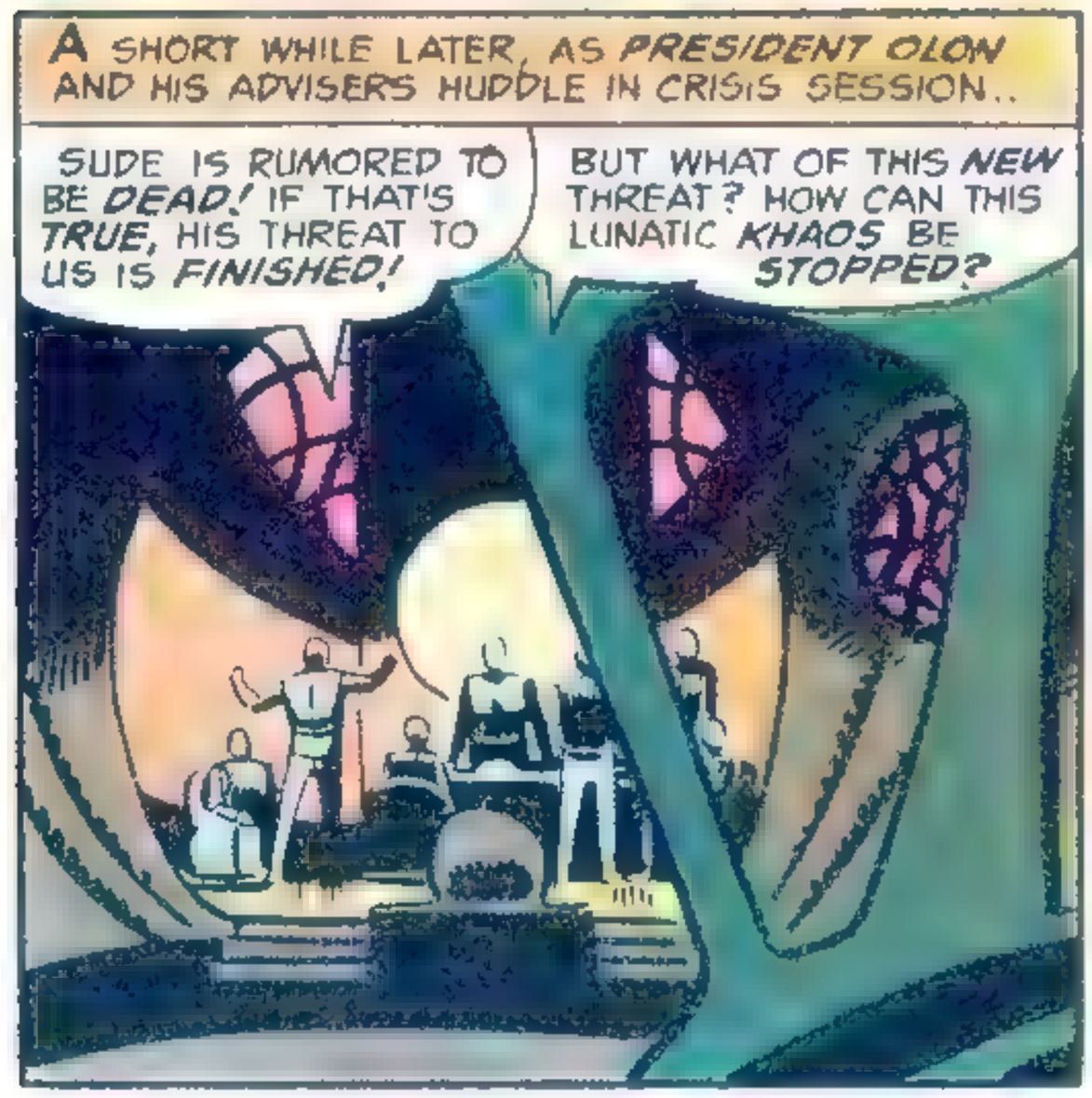
RULER!? W-WHY THAT'S *INSANE!* Y-YOU'RE A *MADMAN!*

HA HA HA! A MADMAN, AM I? YOUR GRISLY DEATH SHALL BE A WARNING TO ALL OF META THAT TO DEFY KHAOS IS TO COURT DOOM!

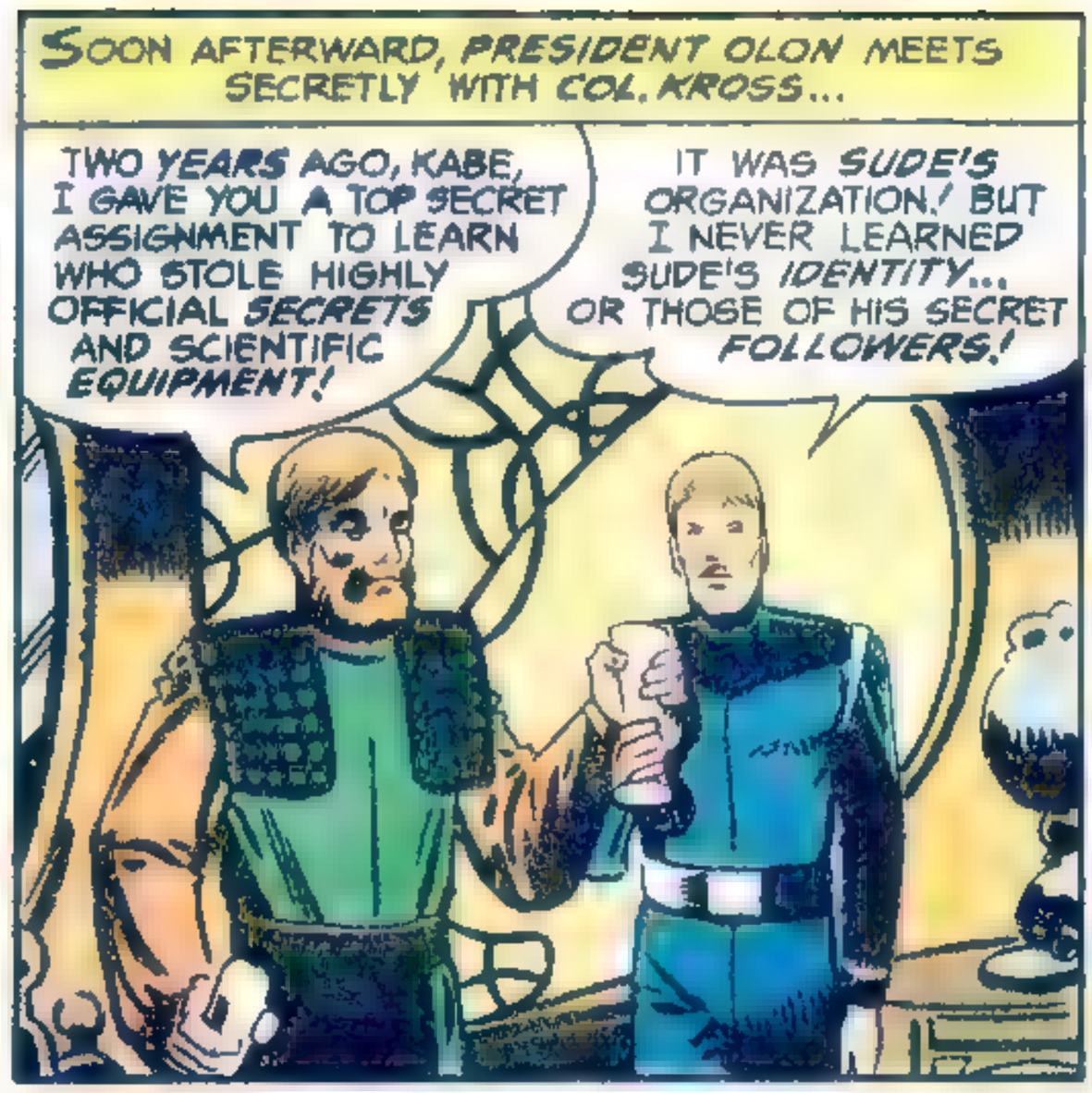

I HAVE SENT A WARNING MESSAGE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE METAN COUNCIL! WHEN THEY HEAR OF MY DEMONSTRATION HERE TONIGHT...

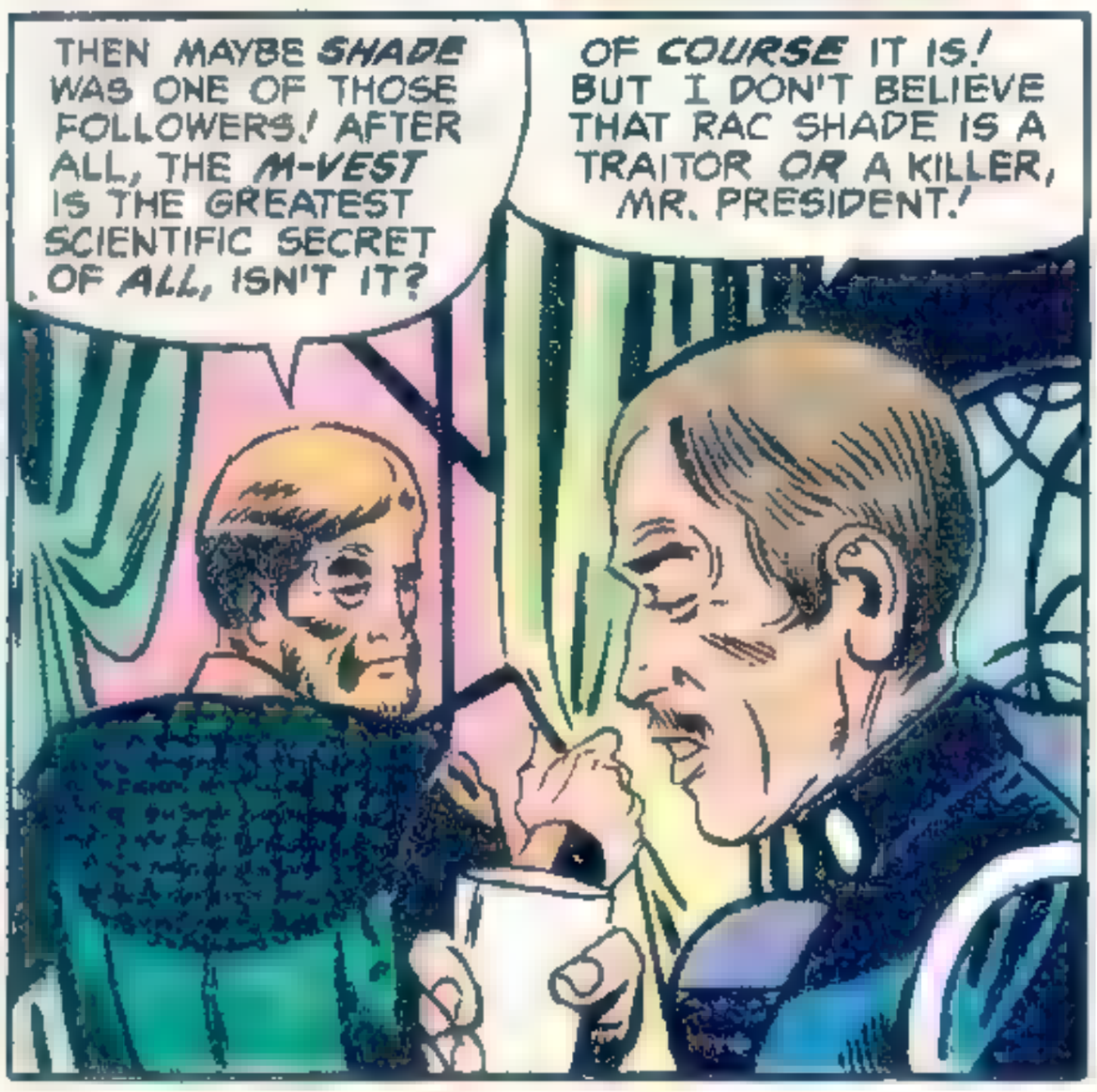
...THEY WILL KNOW THAT THE LORD OF TERROR IS NOT TO BE TRIFLED WITH! THEY WILL COME BEGGING KHAOS TO BE THEIR ABSOLUTE RULER--

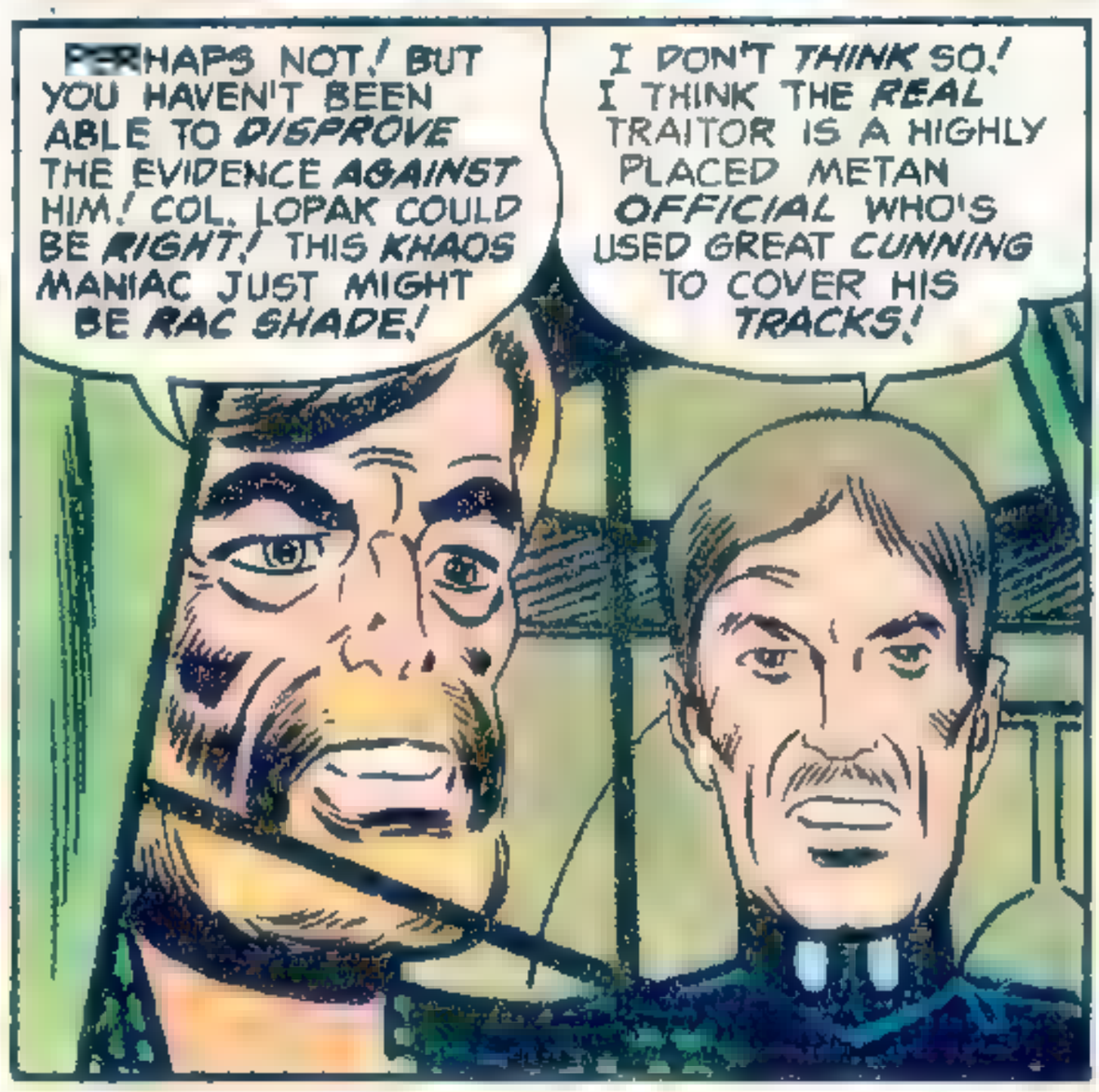
--OR THEY WILL WATCH WHILE I RAVAGE THE ENTIRE ZONE! HA HA HA!

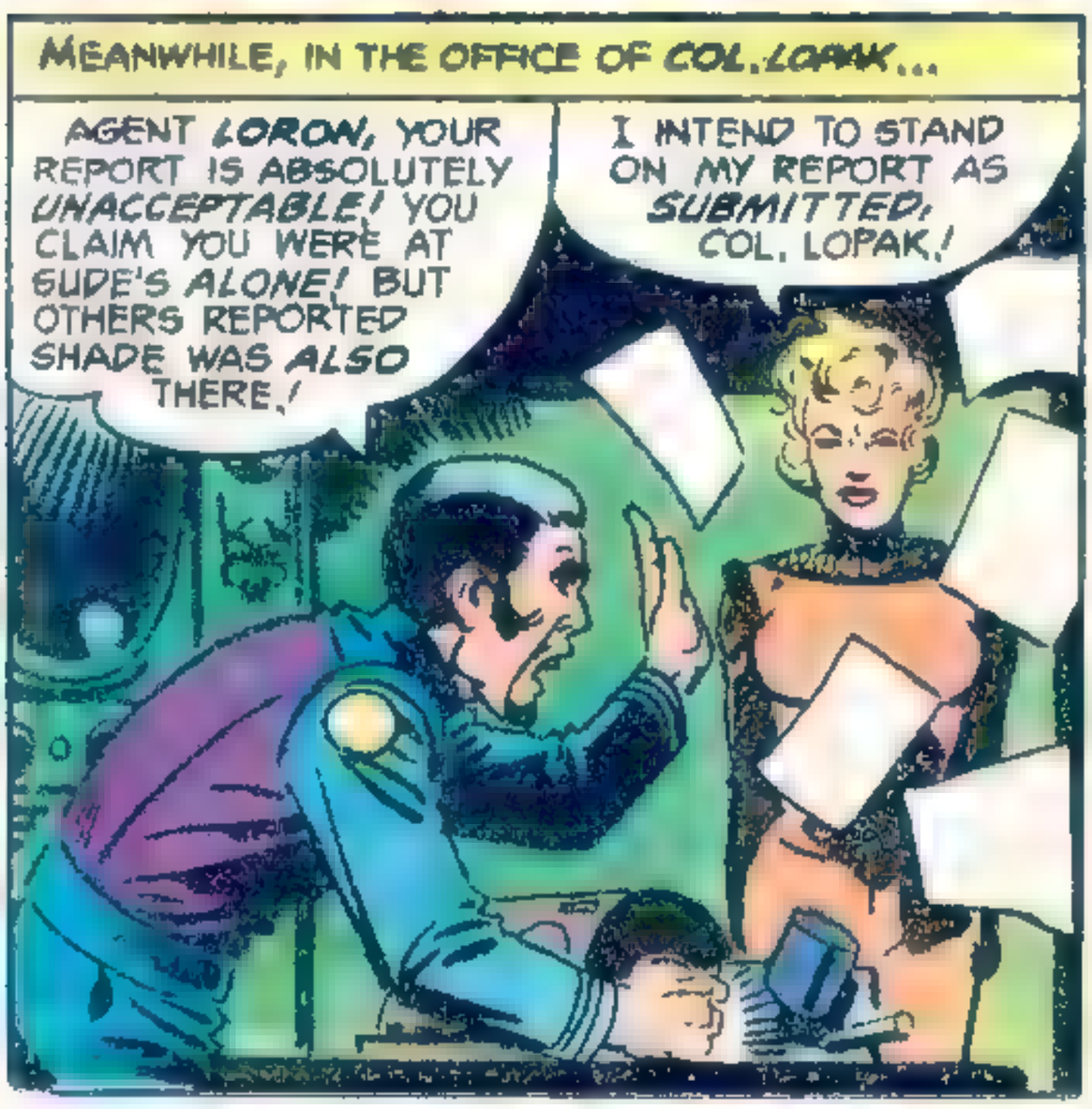

A SHORT WHILE LATER, AS PRESIDENT OLON AND HIS ADVISERS HUDDLE IN CRISIS SESSION..
SUDE IS RUMORED TO BE DEAD! IF THAT'S TRUE, HIS THREAT TO US IS FINISHED!
BUT WHAT OF THIS NEW THREAT? HOW CAN THIS LUNATIC KHAOS BE STOPPED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, COL. LOPAK?
I BELIEVE THAT THE MADMAN YOU CALL KHAOS IS REALLY RAC SHADE -- EMPLOYING THE ENORMOUS POWER OF THE M-VEST! I DON'T BELIEVE SHADE DIED IN THE TUNNEL CAVE-IN!









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GREAT KRYPTON! THANKS TO MY X-RAY VISION I CAN SEE THAT ELEVATOR CABLE GETTING READY TO SNAP.

THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN, NOT CLARK KENT.

"BEFORE YOU CAN SAY UP, UP AND AWAY, SUPERMAN IS STREAKING UP THE ELEVATOR SHAFT TO THE 73RD FLOOR.

I'M SCARED.

LET ME OUT OF HERE.

DON'T BE SCARED, KIDS. I'LL GET YOU ALL DOWN SAFELY. MEANTIME, ENJOY SOME *HOSTESS*® *CUP CAKES.*

GEE!!! SUPERMAN *AND HOSTESS CUP CAKES!!!*

DON'T FORGET THE *LUSCIOUS CREAMED FILLING!*

LOVE THE *FUDGY ICING!!!!* THE *DEEP, DARK CHOCOLATY CAKE!!*

SOMETIME LATER...

AND WERE YOU SCARED DURING THIS DARING RESCUE BY SUPERMAN???

WE KNEW SUPERMAN WOULD SAVE US!

BESIDES WE WERE TOO BUSY ENJOYING THESE *HOSTESS CUP CAKES.*

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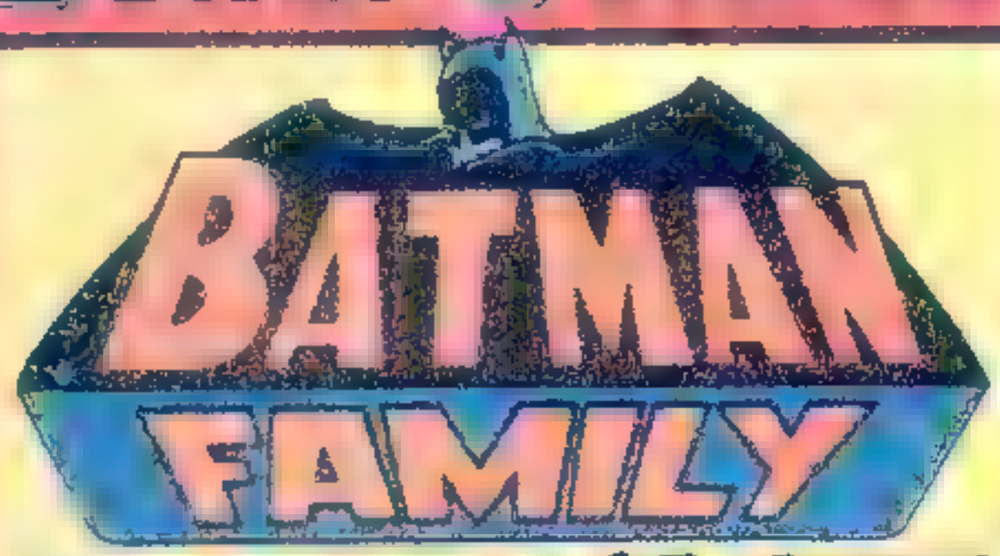
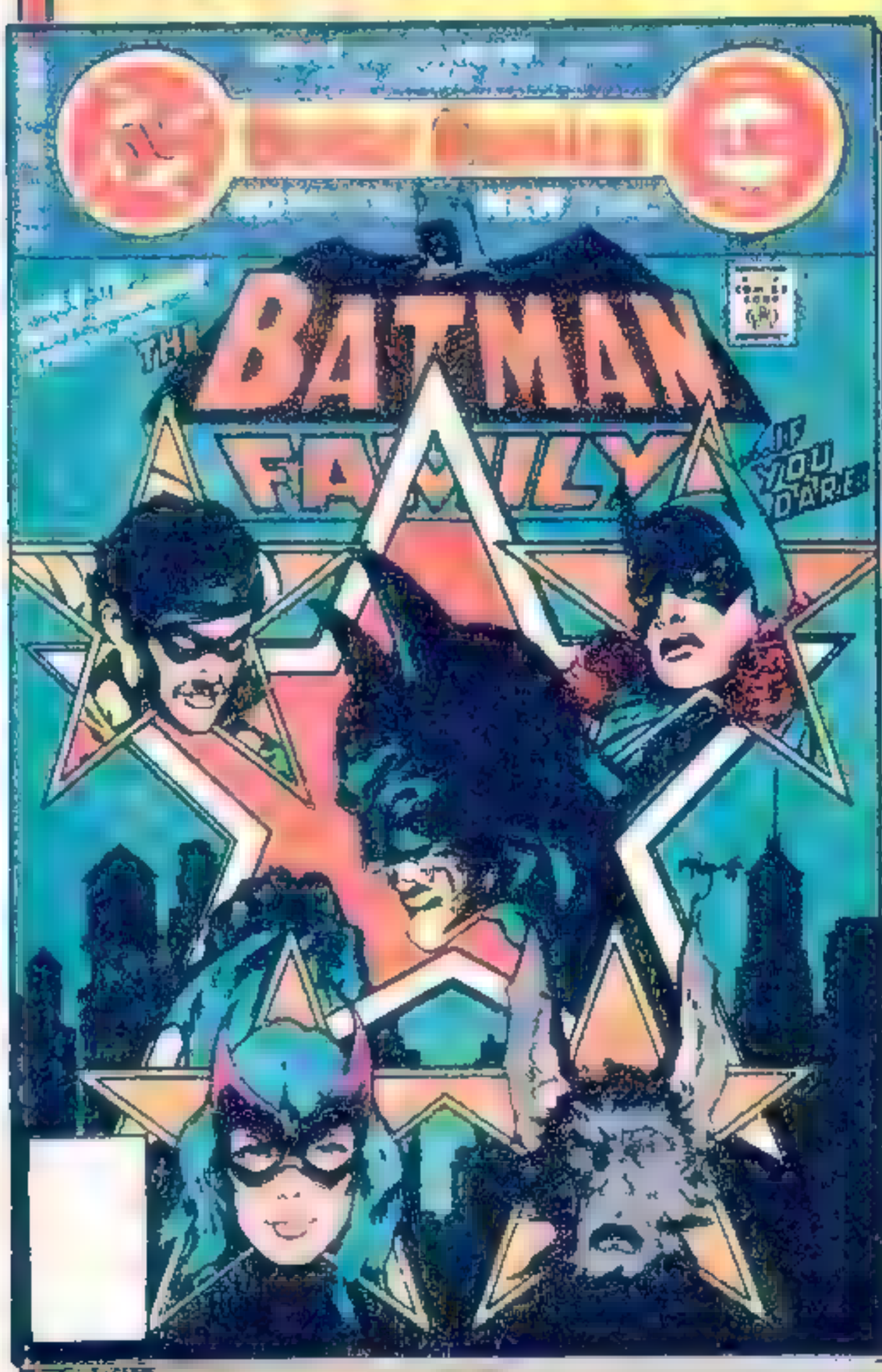


GOES DOLLAR-SIZED!



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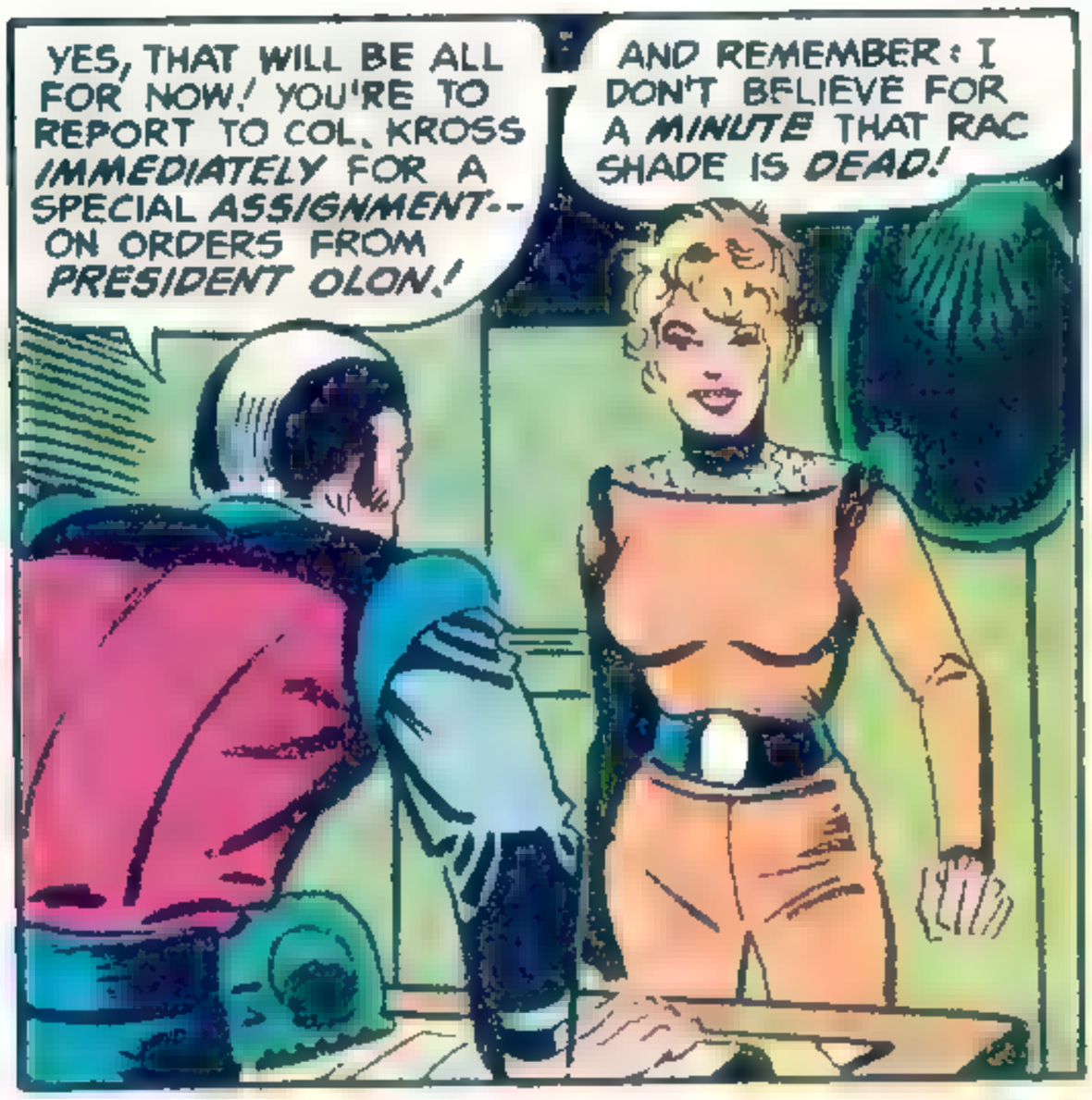
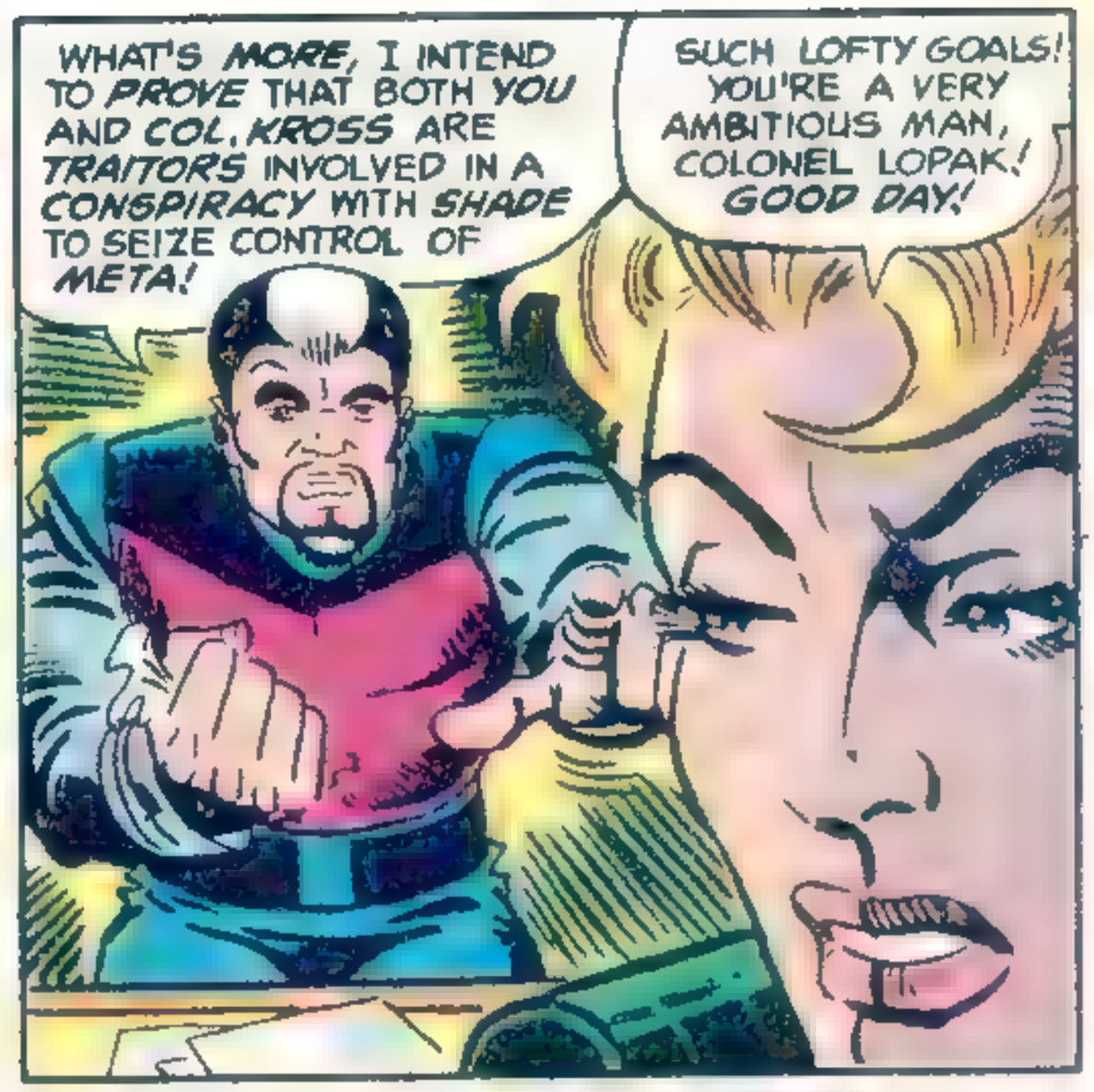
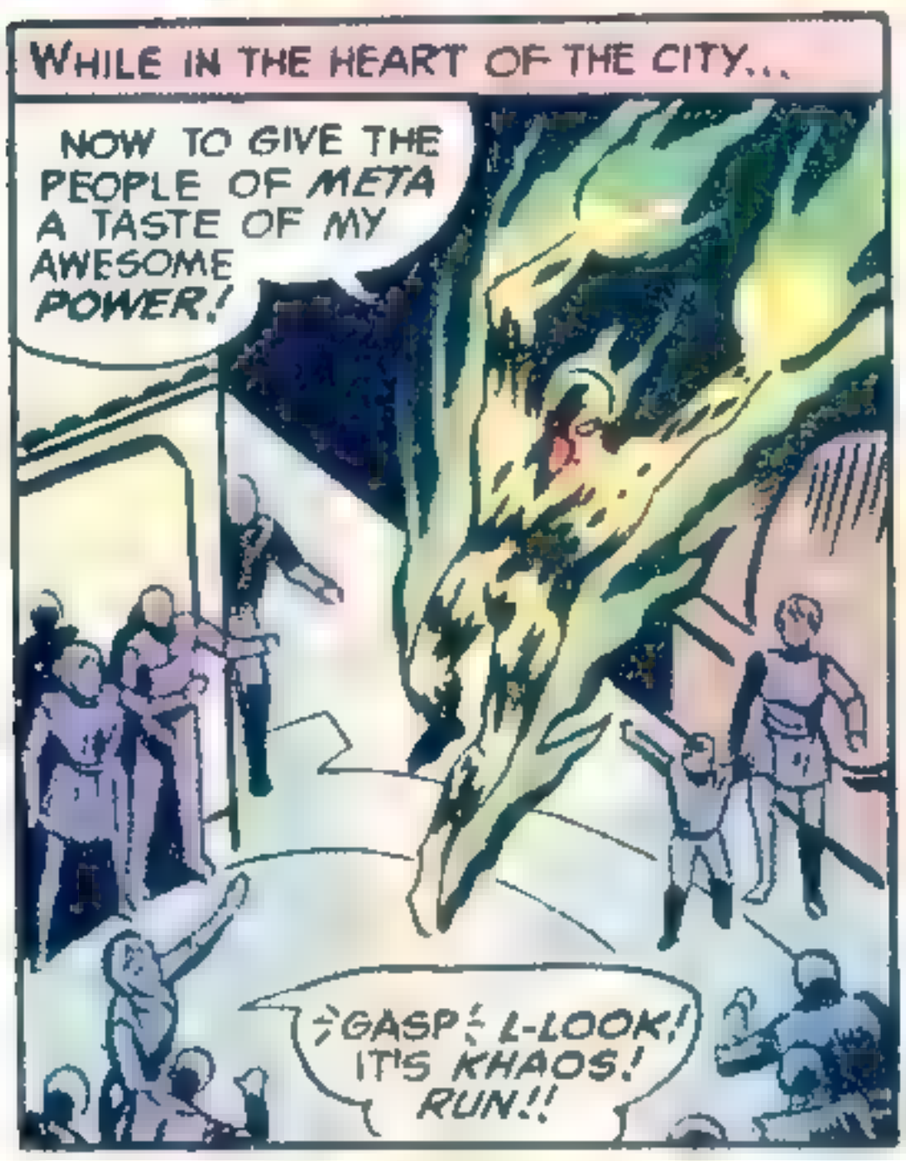
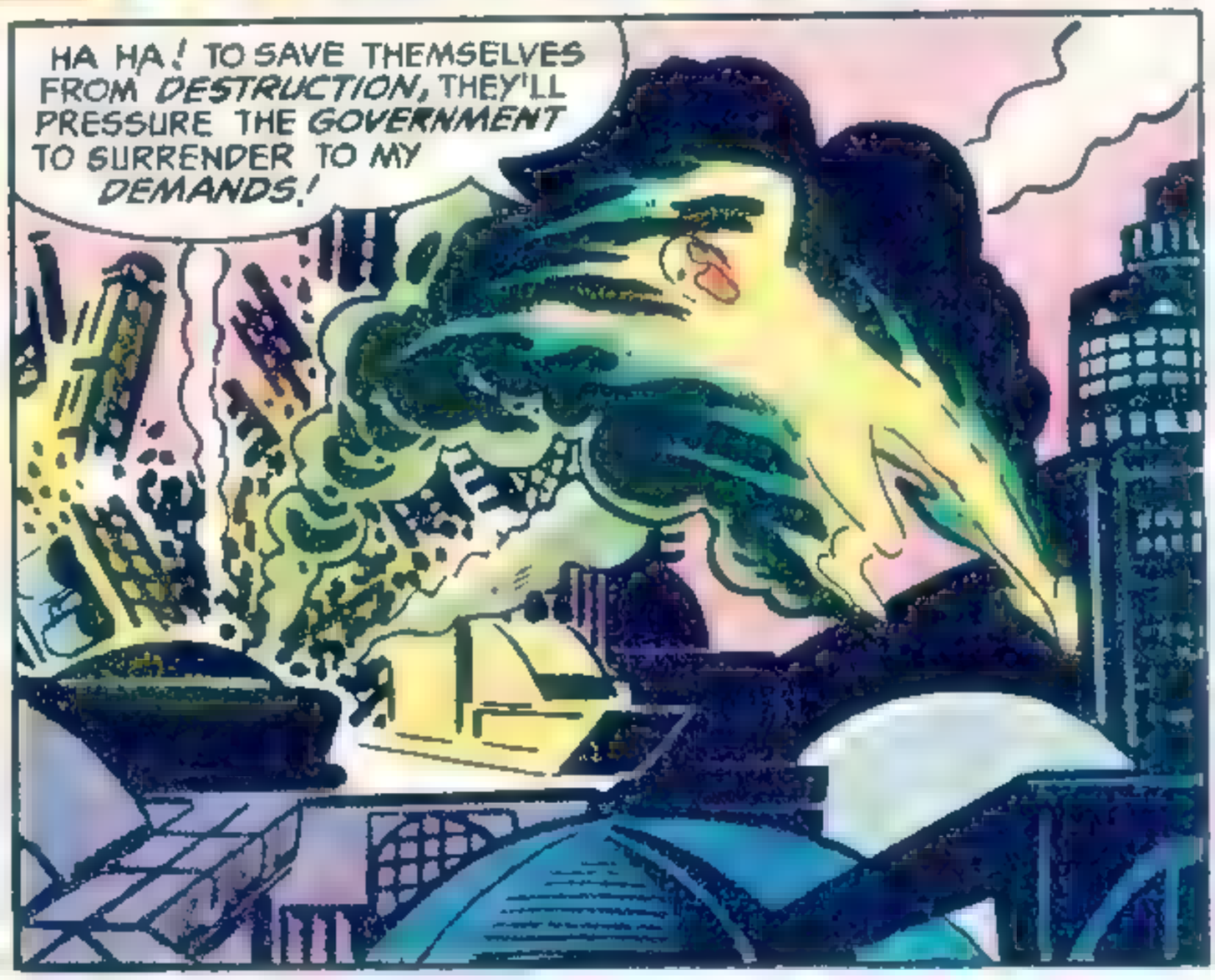
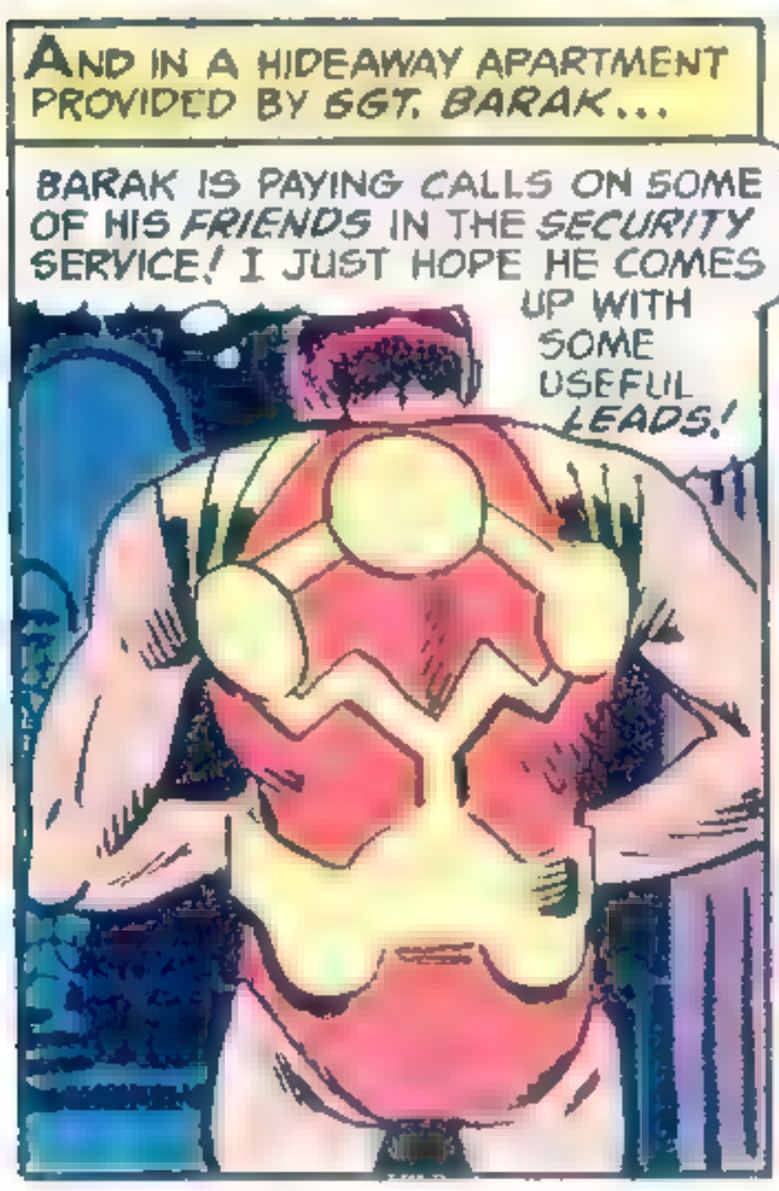
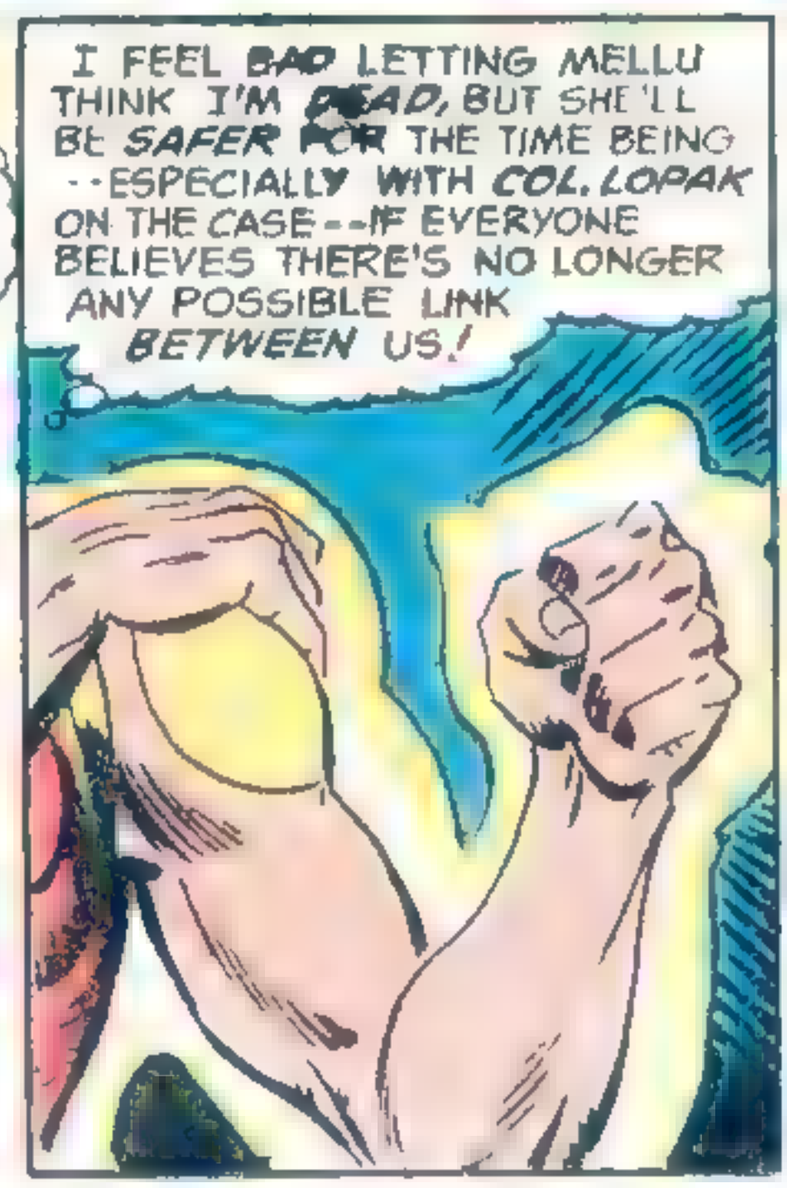

YES, THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW! YOU'RE TO REPORT TO COL. KROSS IMMEDIATELY FOR A SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT-- ON ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT OLON!
AND REMEMBER: I DON'T BELIEVE FOR A MINUTE THAT RAC SHADE IS DEAD!

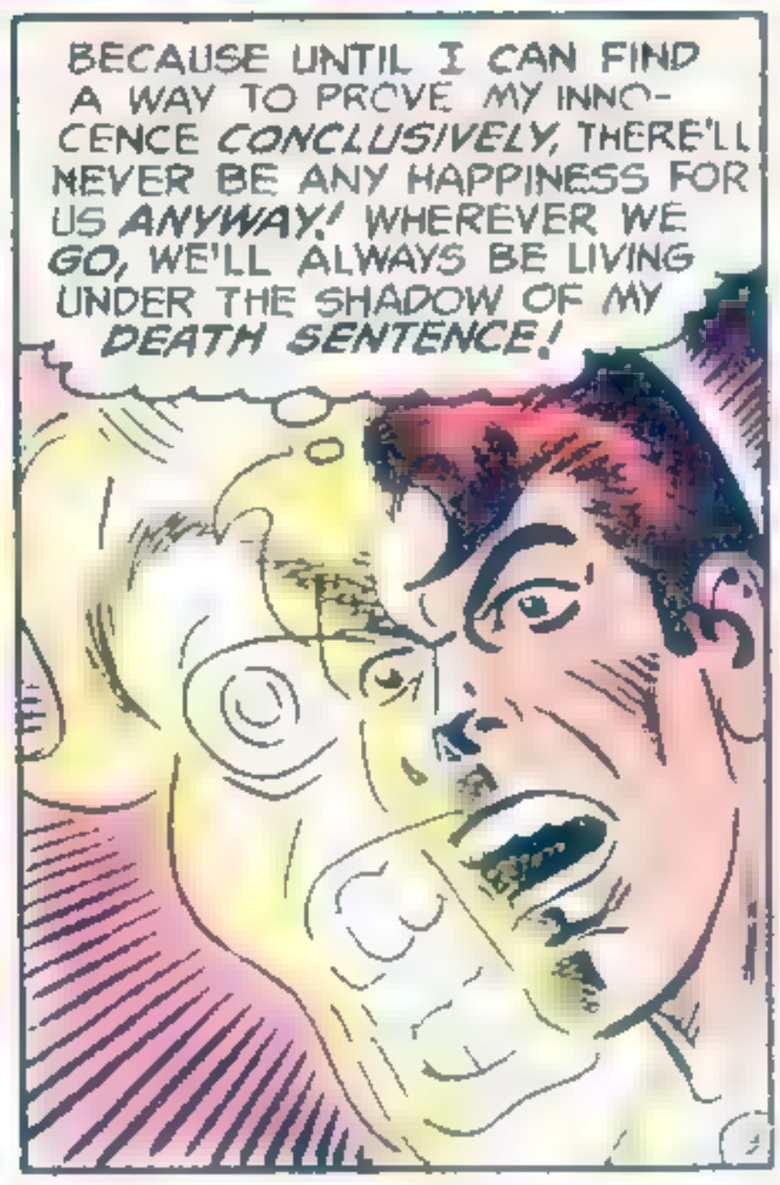

WHAT'S MORE, I INTEND TO PROVE THAT BOTH YOU AND COL. KROSS ARE TRAITORS INVOLVED IN A CONSPIRACY WITH SHADE TO SEIZE CONTROL OF META!
SUCH LOFTY GOALS! YOU'RE A VERY AMBITIOUS MAN, COLONEL LOPAK! GOOD DAY!


WHILE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY...
NOW TO GIVE THE PEOPLE OF META A TASTE OF MY AWESOME POWER!
GASP! L-LOOK! IT'S KHAOS! RUN!!


HA HA! TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM DESTRUCTION, THEY'LL PRESSURE THE GOVERNMENT TO SURRENDER TO MY DEMANDS!


AND IN A HIDEAWAY APARTMENT PROVIDED BY SGT. BARAK...
BARAK IS PAYING CALLS ON SOME OF HIS FRIENDS IN THE SECURITY SERVICE! I JUST HOPE HE COMES UP WITH SOME USEFUL LEADS!


I FEEL BAD LETTING MELLU THINK I'M DEAD, BUT SHE'LL BE SAFER FOR THE TIME BEING --ESPECIALLY WITH COL. LOPAK ON THE CASE--IF EVERYONE BELIEVES THERE'S NO LONGER ANY POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN US!


BECAUSE UNTIL I CAN FIND A WAY TO PROVE MY INNOCENCE CONCLUSIVELY, THERE'LL NEVER BE ANY HAPPINESS FOR US ANYWAY! WHEREVER WE GO, WE'LL ALWAYS BE LIVING UNDER THE SHADOW OF MY DEATH SENTENCE!

A SHORT WHILE LATER, AT THE *LORON* HOME...

DR. KOZEN!? WHAT ARE YOU--

OH GOD! *MOTHER!* WHAT IN--

SHE'S IN A *COMA*, MELLU! BUT TRY NOT TO BE *UPSET!* TH-THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE SHE'LL *RECOVER!*

OH, MOTHER! *MOTHER!* (SOB) I-I *SWEAR* TO YOU, I'LL NEVER *REST* UNTIL I FIND *SUDE* AND MAKE THAT MONSTER *PAY* FOR WHAT HE'S *DONE* TO YOU!

I CAN'T MOVE OR SPEAK, BUT I CAN *HEAR!* OH, *MELLU!* CURSE THE DAY *SHADE* ENTERED OUR LIVES-- AND RUINED *EVERYTHING!*

WHILE IN THE OFFICE OF *PRESIDENT OLON*...

MR. PRESIDENT! YOU CAN'T JUST *IGNORE* KHAOS'S *ULTIMATUM* AND LET HIS RAMPAGE *CONTINUE!*

AFTER ALL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE KHAOS TOTAL POWER!

A PARTIAL *VOICE* IN GOVERNMENT WILL *PACIFY* KHAOS--AND SAVE META FROM *DESTRUCTION!*

NO! I WILL NOT GRANT *CONCESSIONS* TO A *CRIMINAL* WHO USES *TERRORISM* TO ENFORCE HIS *DEMANDS!*

IF YOU WON'T *NEGOTIATE* WITH KHAOS, WE'LL *IMPEACH* YOU!

THAT'S *RIGHT!* EITHER YOU STEP DOWN AS *PRESIDENT*, OR WE'LL TAKE THE OFFICE *AWAY* FROM YOU!

WHILE *KHAOS* VISITS AN ALLY ON THE *METAN COUNCIL*...

P-PLEASE, KHAOS! BE *PATIENT!* THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNCIL IS *WITH* YOU, BUT *PRESIDENT OLON* STILL WON'T GIVE *IN!*

WHAT!? YOU MEAN *ONE MAN* STILL DARES TO *DEFY* ME?

OLON'S *STUBBORN*, KHAOS! EVEN IF YOU DEMOLISH HALF OF *META*, HE STILL WON'T *NEGOTIATE* WITH YOU!

DEMOLISH HALF OF *META*, EH? HA HA! WHY SHOULD I DO THAT--

--WHEN ALL I *REALLY* HAVE TO DO IS DESTROY ONE PUNY, FOOLISH OLD *MAN?* HA HA HAAAA!

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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Jacy McDonnell Jr
Pennsylvania

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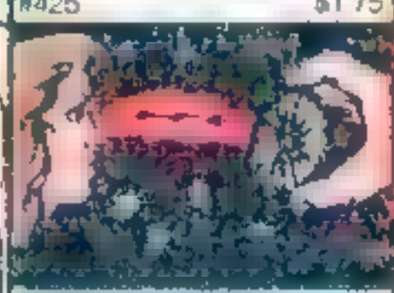

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AND IN THE OFFICE OF COL. KROSS...

I BELIEVE YOU, MELLU! BUT EVEN IF SHADE IS INNOCENT OF TREASON, HE'S STILL WANTED FOR MURDERING CAPT. MAJAN AND YOU'RE THE WITNESS AGAINST HIM!*

I KNOW, COLONEL! SHADE WAS ALONE WITH MAJAN WHEN HE DIED!

*SHADE #3. --JCH

I EVEN RECHECKED THE ENERGY RECORDING EQUIPMENT! THE ONLY MOVEMENTS I WAS ABLE TO DETECT WERE SHADE'S AND MAJAN'S!

THAT MAKES SHADE MAJAN'S MURDERER, MELLU!

I KNOW IT LOOKS THAT WAY, COLONEL! BUT I JUST CAN'T ACCEPT IT! SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THE REAL KILLER! I-I'VE JUST GOT TO!

MEANWHILE, IN SHADE'S HIDEOUT...

PRESIDENT OLON'S THE ONLY HOLDOUT, SHADE! IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM, KHAOS WOULD BE RULING META THIS VERY MINUTE!

THAT MAKES OLON A SITTING TARGET, DOESN'T IT?

I ALSO HEAR THAT COL. KROSS IS WORKING ON SOMETHING VERY HUSH-HUSH FOR THE PRESIDENT!

OLON HAD BETTER WATCH HIS STEP! KROSS COULD BE A SUDE AGENT!

FOR ALL I KNOW, KROSS COULD EVEN BE SUDE! MAYBE IT'S TIME I REALLY CHECKED KROSS OUT-- ONCE AND FOR ALL!

IN THE OFFICE OF COL. LOPAK...

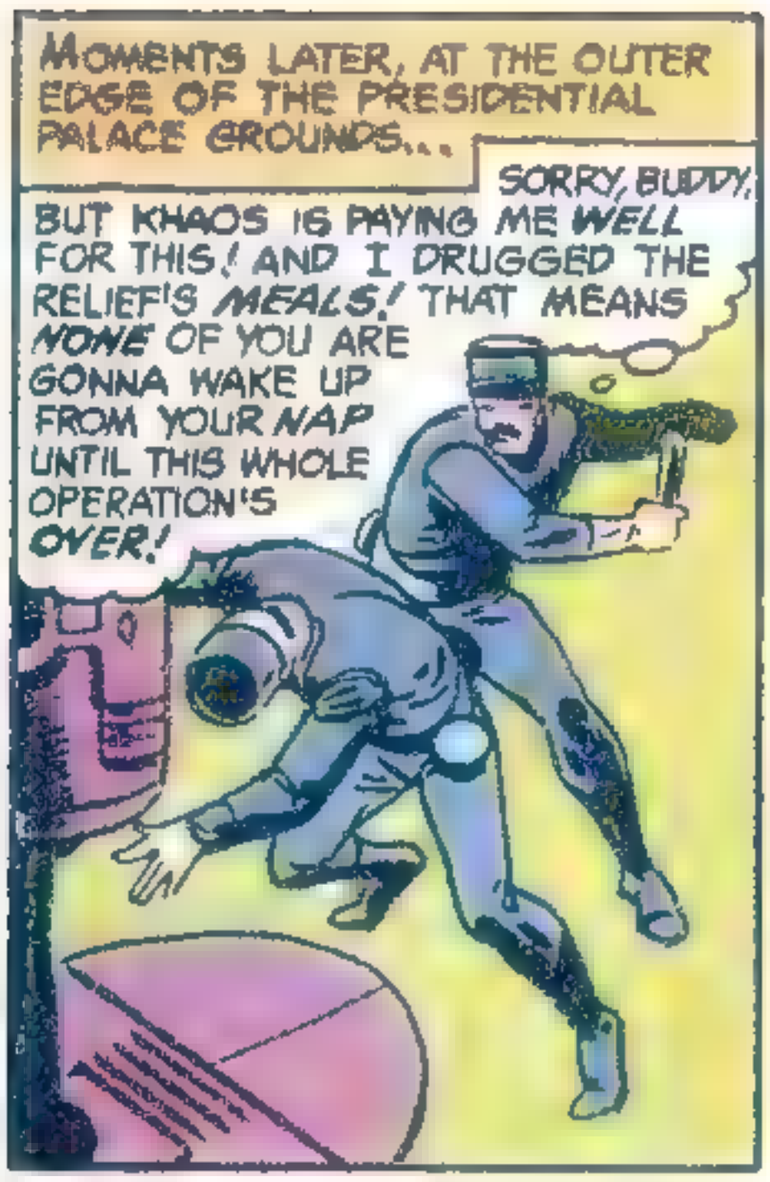
I HAVEN'T CLOSED MY FILE ON YOU YET, COL. KROSS! BEING THE PRESIDENT'S PET WON'T PROTECT YOU INDEFINITELY!

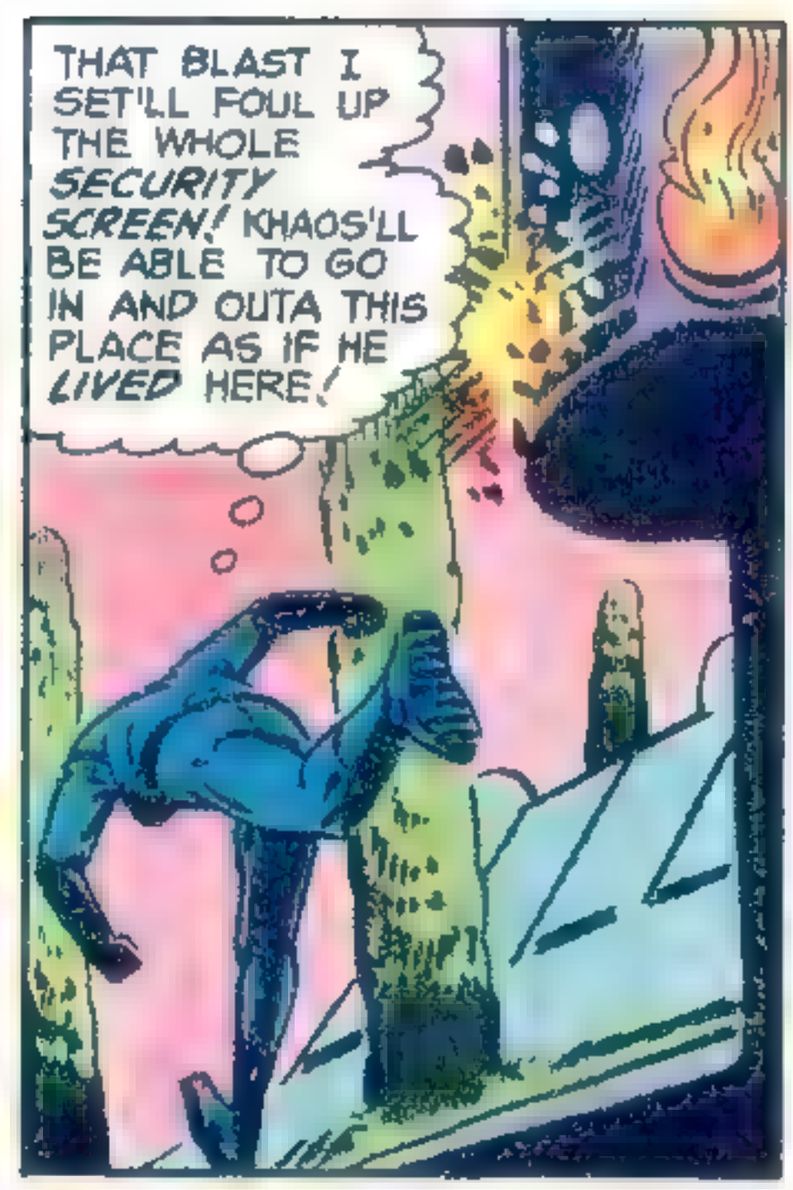
DON'T BOTHER ME FURTHER, COL. LOPAK, UNTIL YOU'RE READY TO ARREST ME!

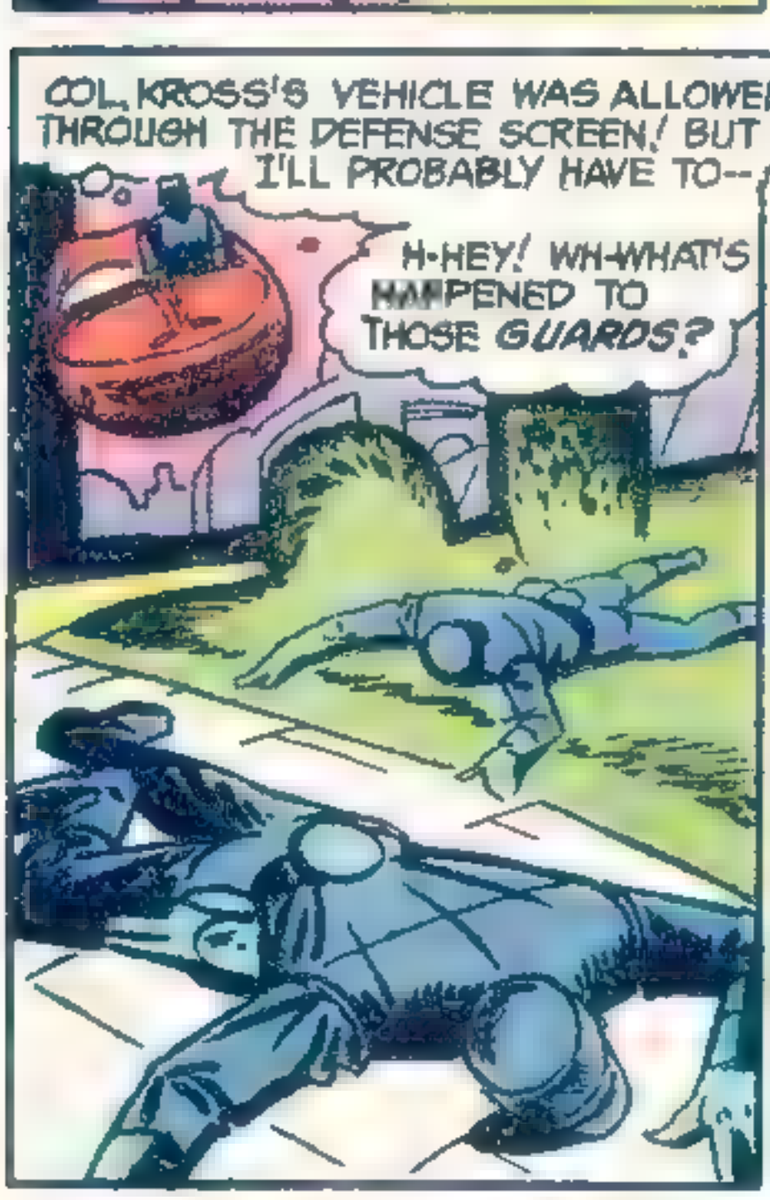
I KNOW LOPAK! HE'S RELENTLESS! HE'LL KEEP HOUNDING ME UNTIL HE KNOWS EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT SHADE, SUDE, AND ALL THE REST OF IT!

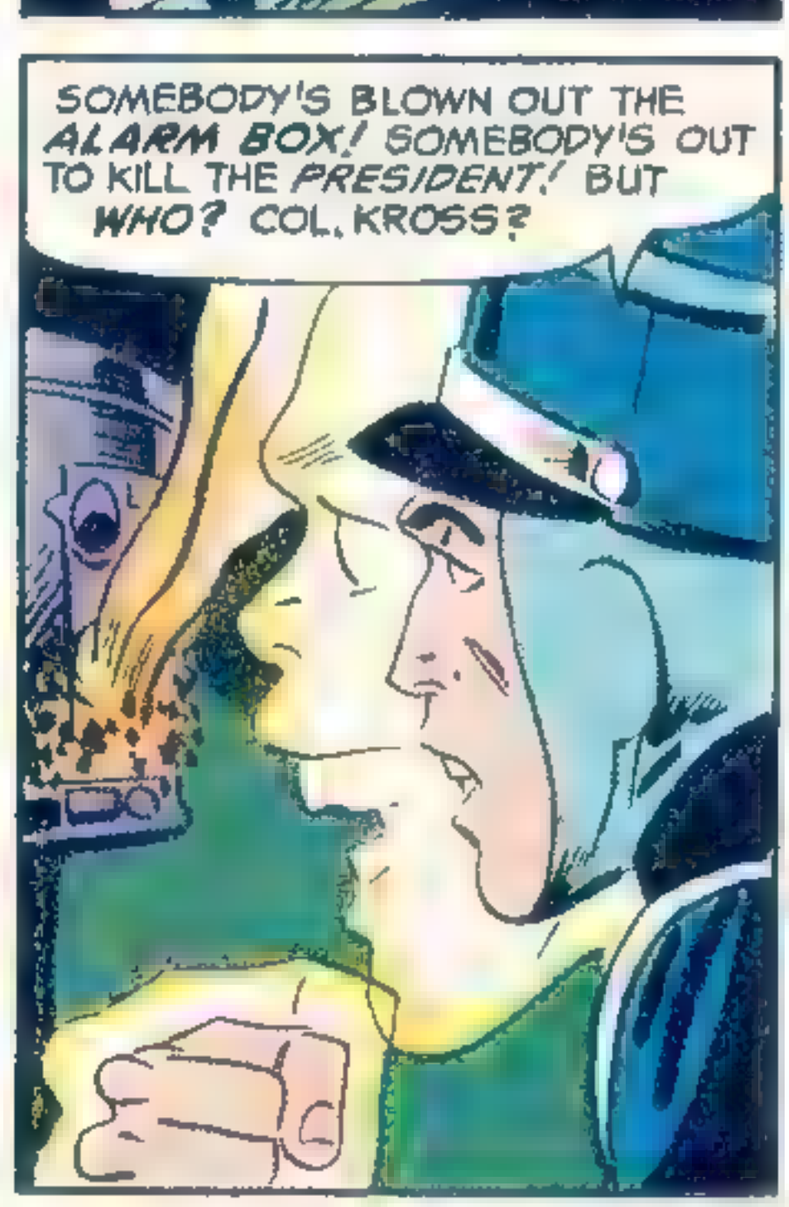
THAT'S COL. KROSS! NOW TO FOLLOW HIM!

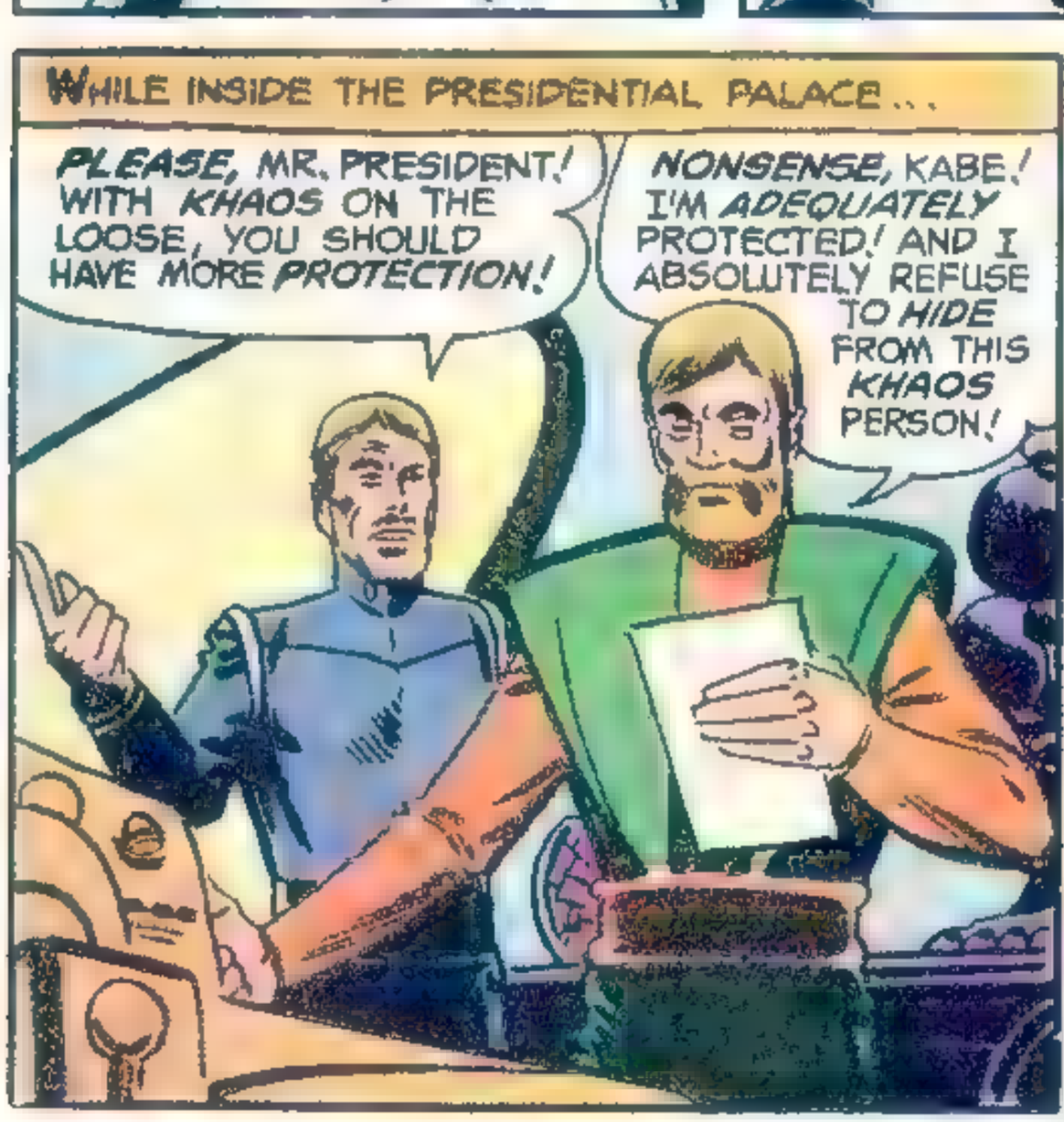
IT'S A GOOD THING SGT. BARAK WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE ME WITH A SECURITY UNIFORM AND A PATROL SLED!











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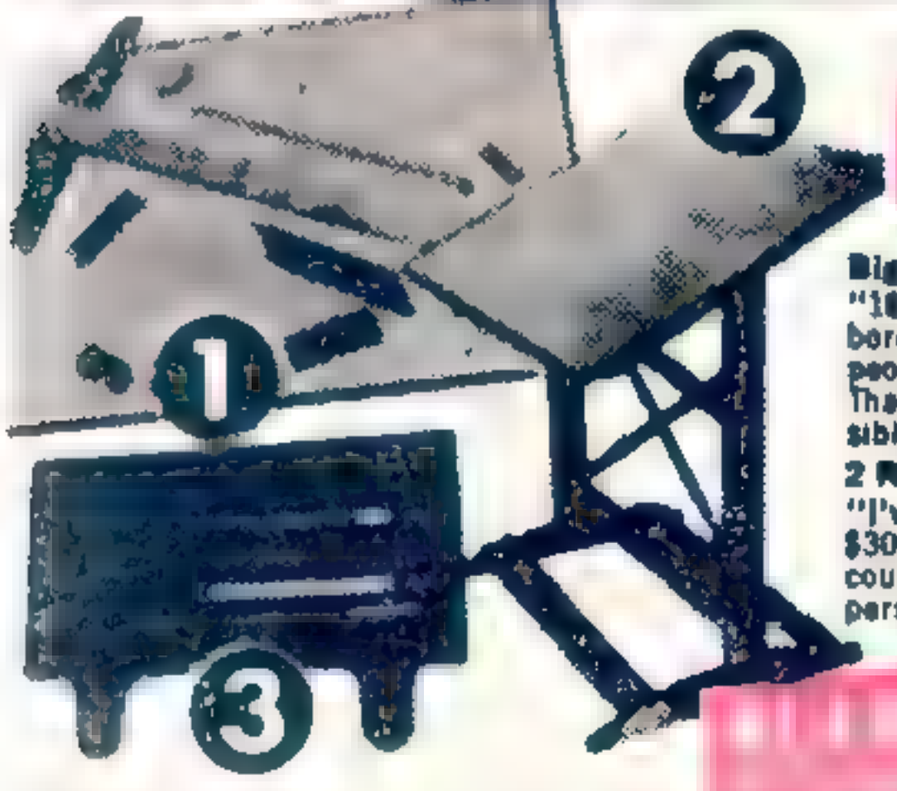

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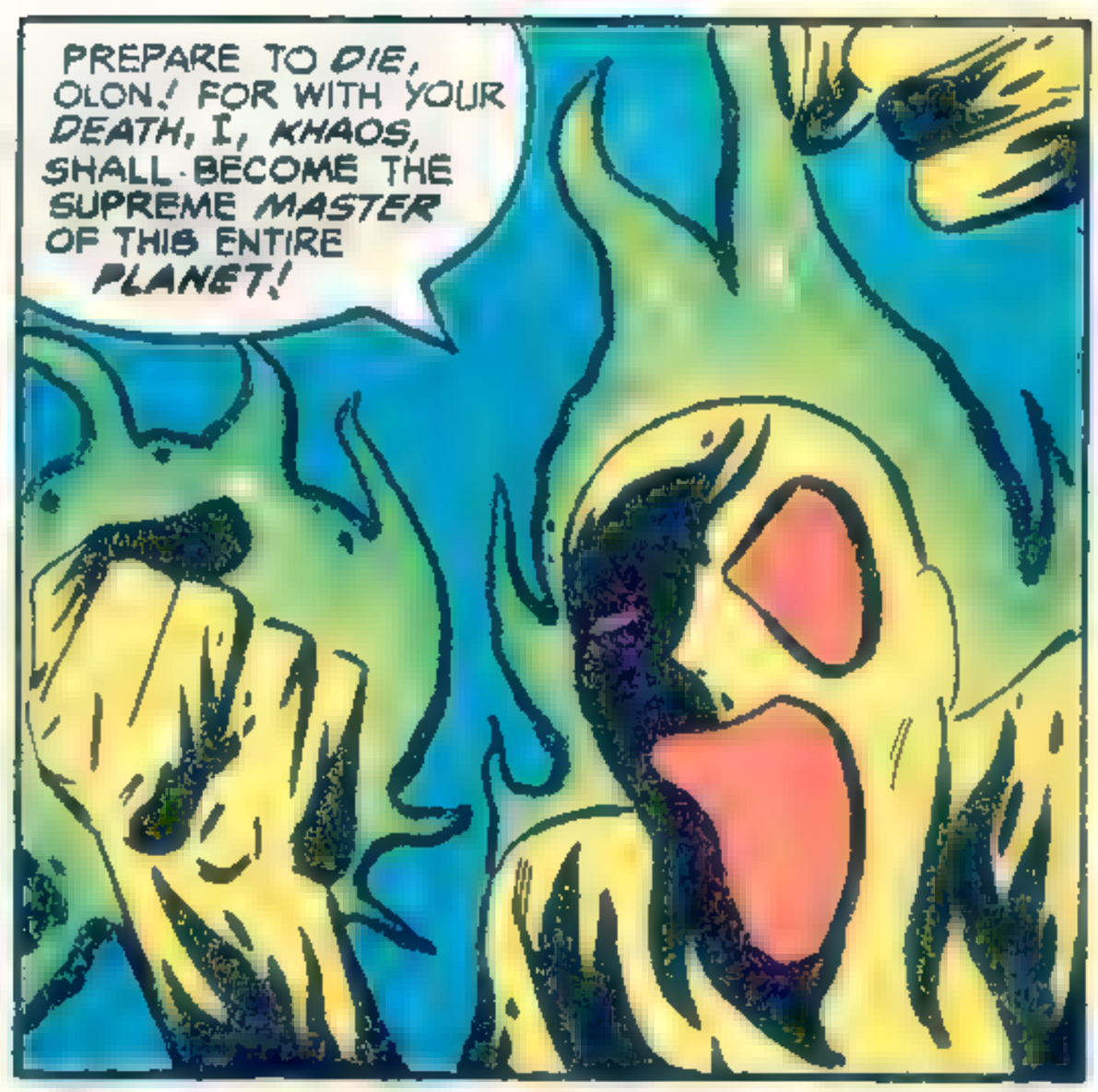
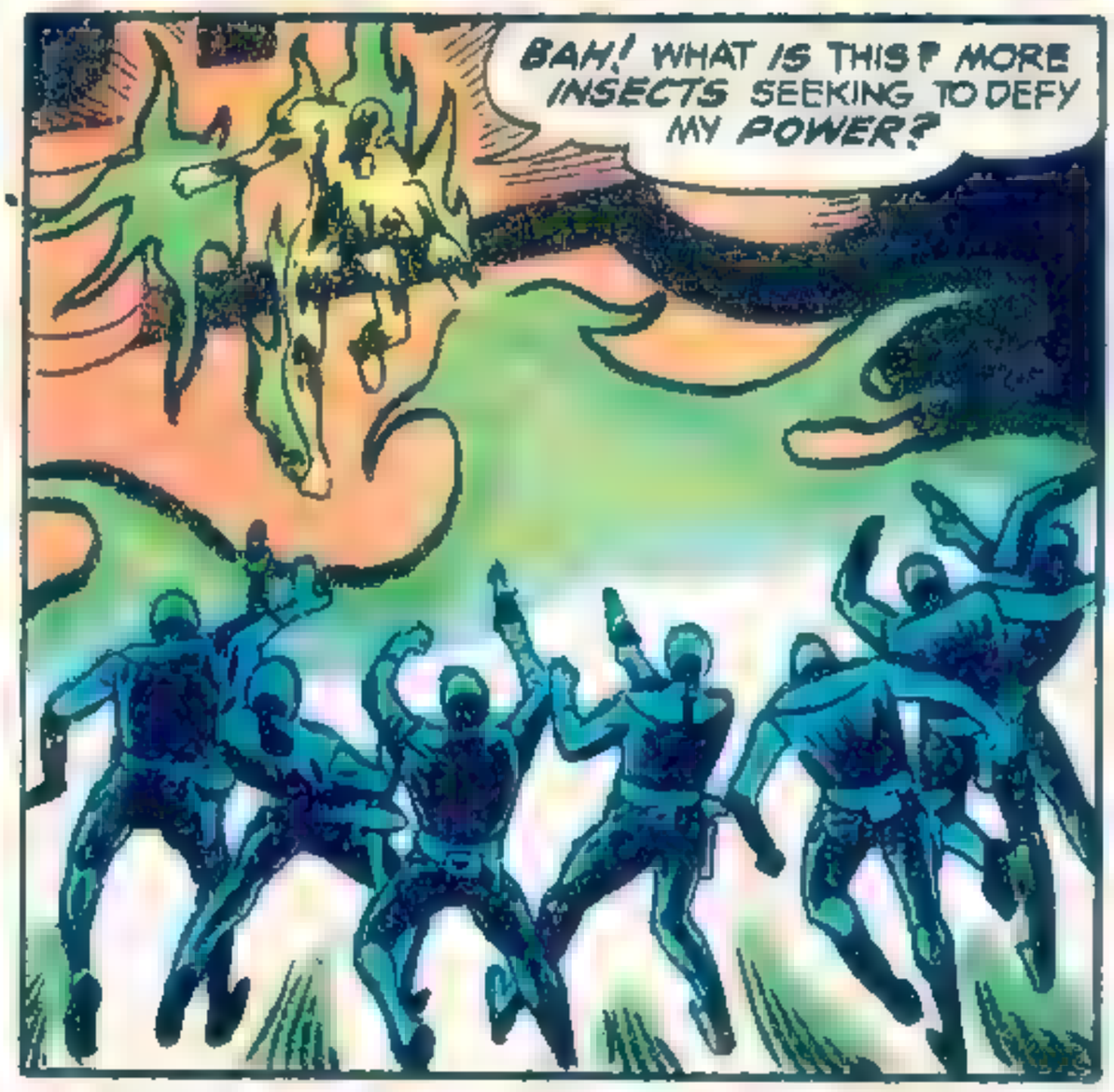
I WAS RIGHT! I-IT'S KHAOS! I'VE ALERTED INTERNAL SECURITY!

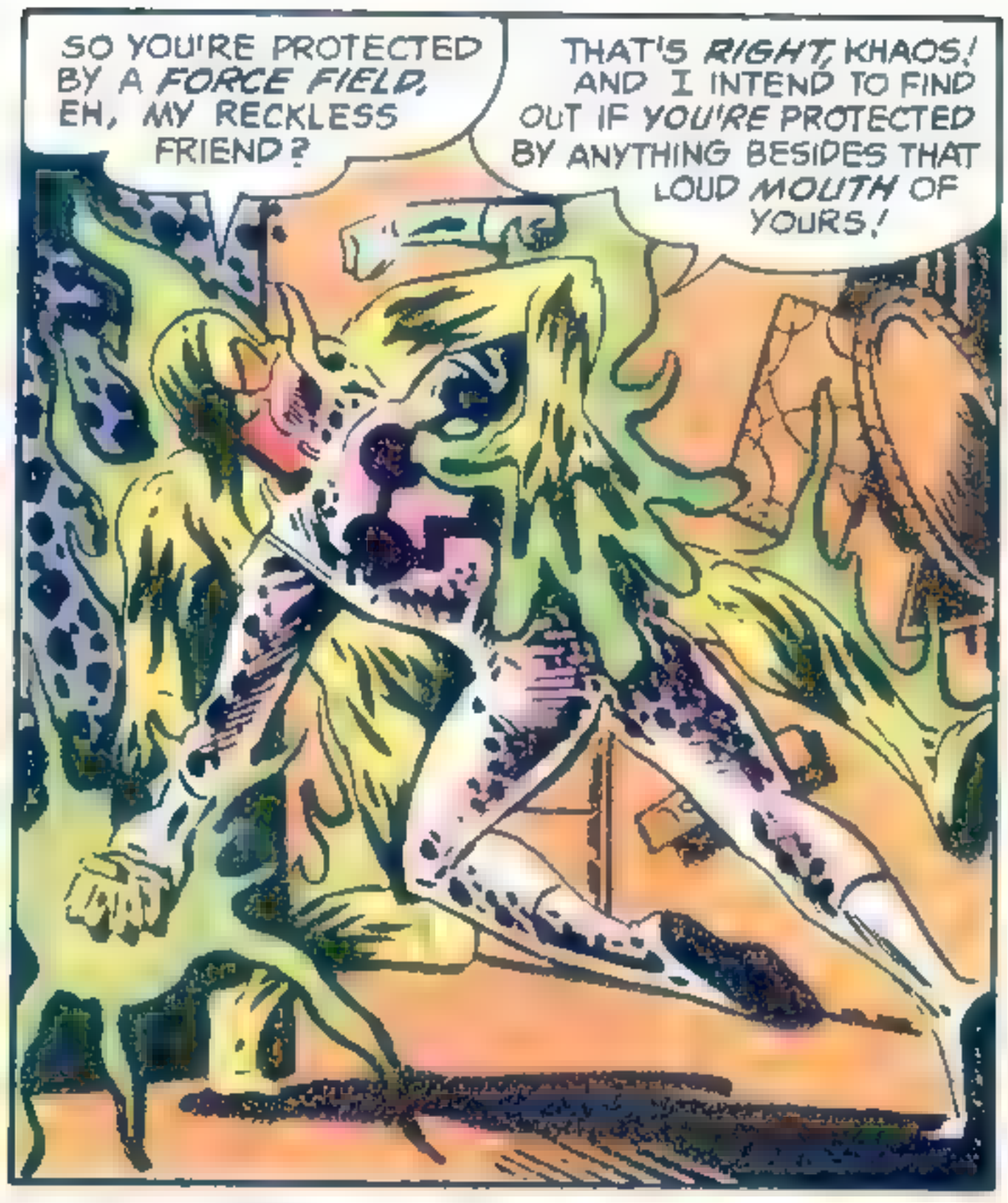

PREPARE TO DIE, OLON! FOR WITH YOUR DEATH, I, KHAOS, SHALL BECOME THE SUPREME MASTER OF THIS ENTIRE PLANET!


BAH! WHAT IS THIS? MORE INSECTS SEEKING TO DEFY MY POWER?

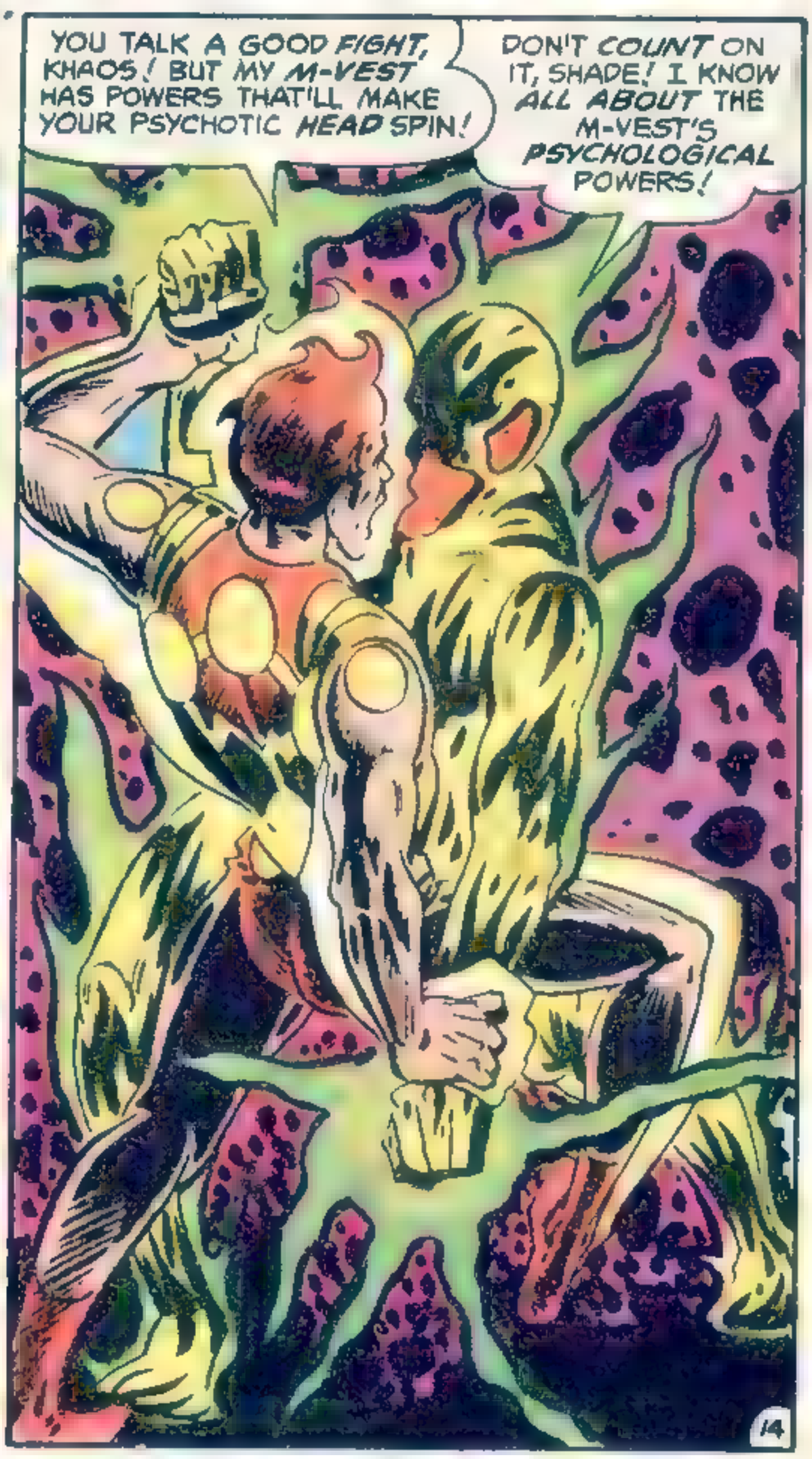
I SHALL FRY YOU LIKE PIECES OF MEAT! AND THEN--

WHAT LONE FOOL DARES TO STOP THE LORD OF TERROR?
WELL AT LEAST NOW I KNOW THAT KROSS ISN'T WORKING HAND IN GLOVE WITH KHAOS!

GREAT META! KABE! H-HOW CAN A LONE SECURITY OFFICER POSSIBLY STAND UP TO KHAOS' AWESOME POWER?
I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL KNOW IN A MINUTE! TH-THE FLAMES ARE BURNING HIS CLOTHES OFF!


SO YOU'RE PROTECTED BY A FORCE FIELD, EH, MY RECKLESS FRIEND?
THAT'S RIGHT, KHAOS! AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT IF YOU'RE PROTECTED BY ANYTHING BESIDES THAT LOUD MOUTH OF YOURS!

WHY, YOU-- WHA--!? SHADE!! RESIGN YOURSELF, SHADE! EVEN YOUR M-VEST WILL PROVE INSIGNIFICANT WHEN PITTED AGAINST THE POWER OF THE LORD OF TERROR!


YOU TALK A GOOD FIGHT, KHAOS! BUT MY M-VEST HAS POWERS THAT'LL MAKE YOUR PSYCHOTIC HEAD SPIN!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, SHADE! I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE M-VEST'S PSYCHOLOGICAL POWERS!

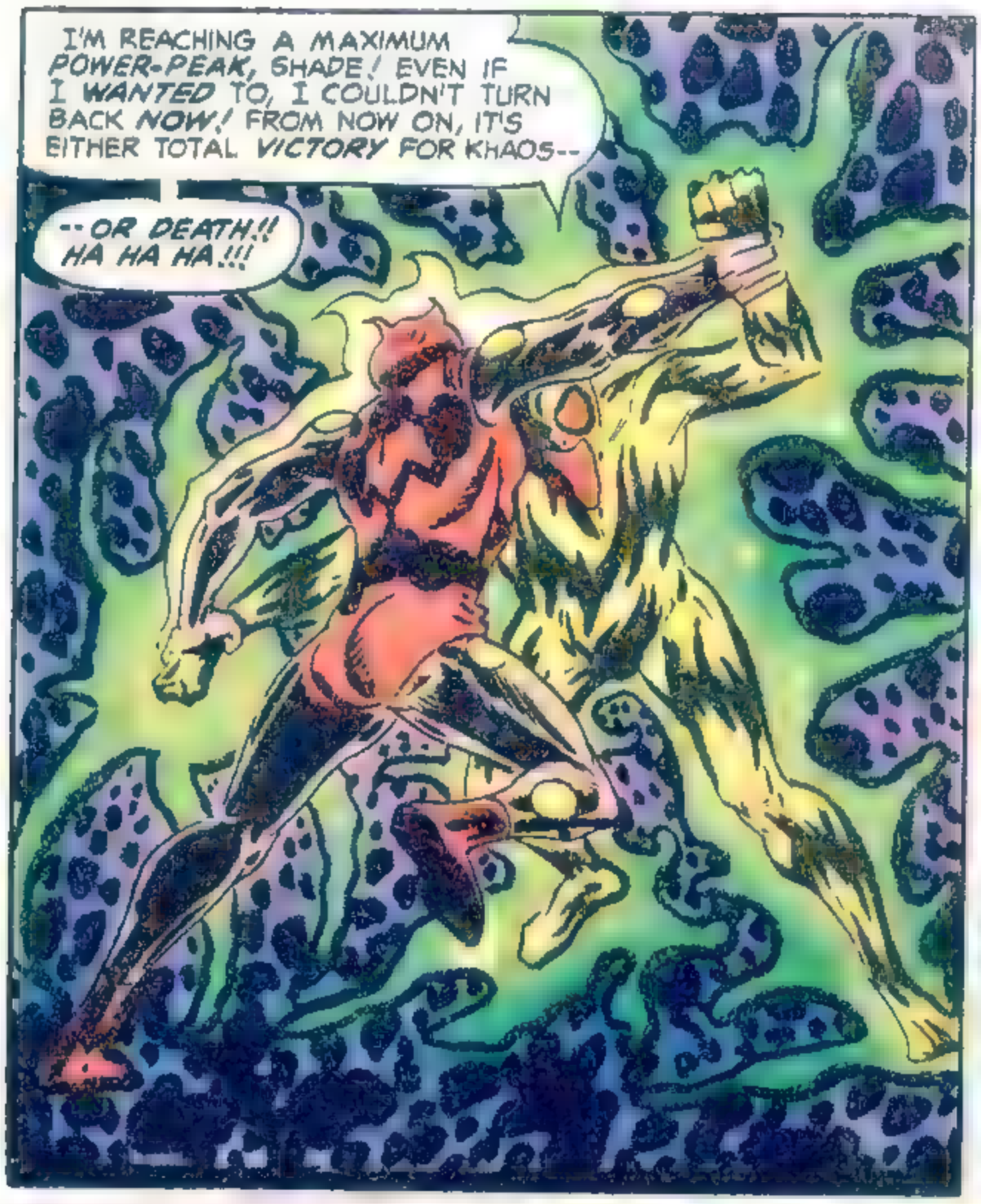
I KNOW ITS POWER TO MAKE AN ADVERSARY FEAR A *TERROR* THAT IS NOT *THERE*-- A *NIGHTMARE* THAT DOES NOT *EXIST!*

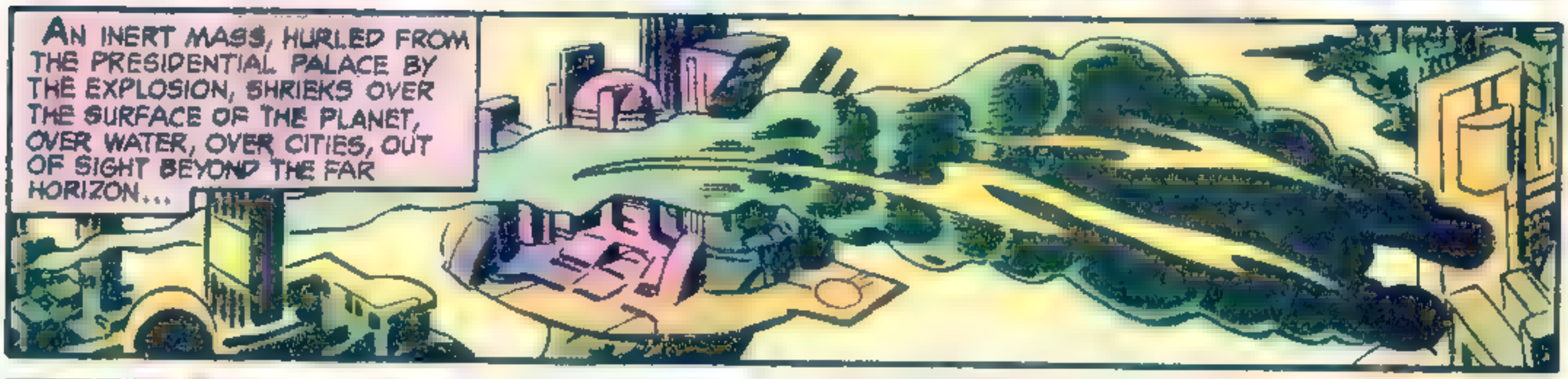
WHOEVER'S POWER FIELD OUTLASTS THE OTHER'S WILL ⟩UNNHH⟨ *WIN* THIS FIGHT!

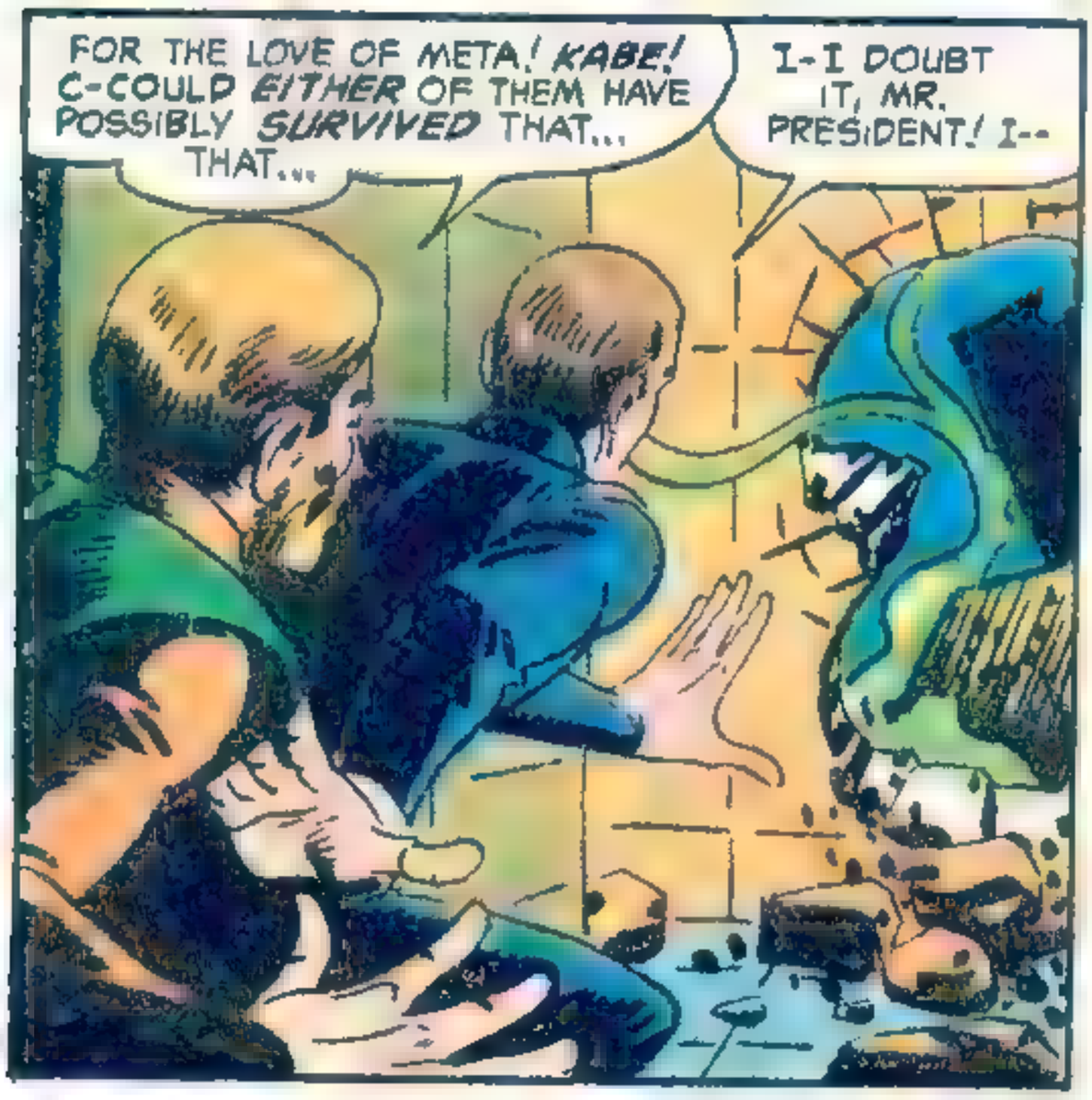
BEGINNING TO...TO FEEL THE INCREDIBLE SEARING *POWER* OF KHAOS' *HEAT-EMANATIONS!*

AND BECAUSE I *KNOW* THOSE THINGS, SHADE, YOUR M-VEST IS *POWERLESS* AGAINST ME! FOR I FEAR *NO ONE!* I, KHAOS, AM *INVINCIBLE!*

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW *HE'S* HOLDING ⟩UNNGGHH⟨ UP! BUT MY FORCE FIELD'S BEGINNING TO...TO *OVERHEAT...!* C-CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH...MUCH...







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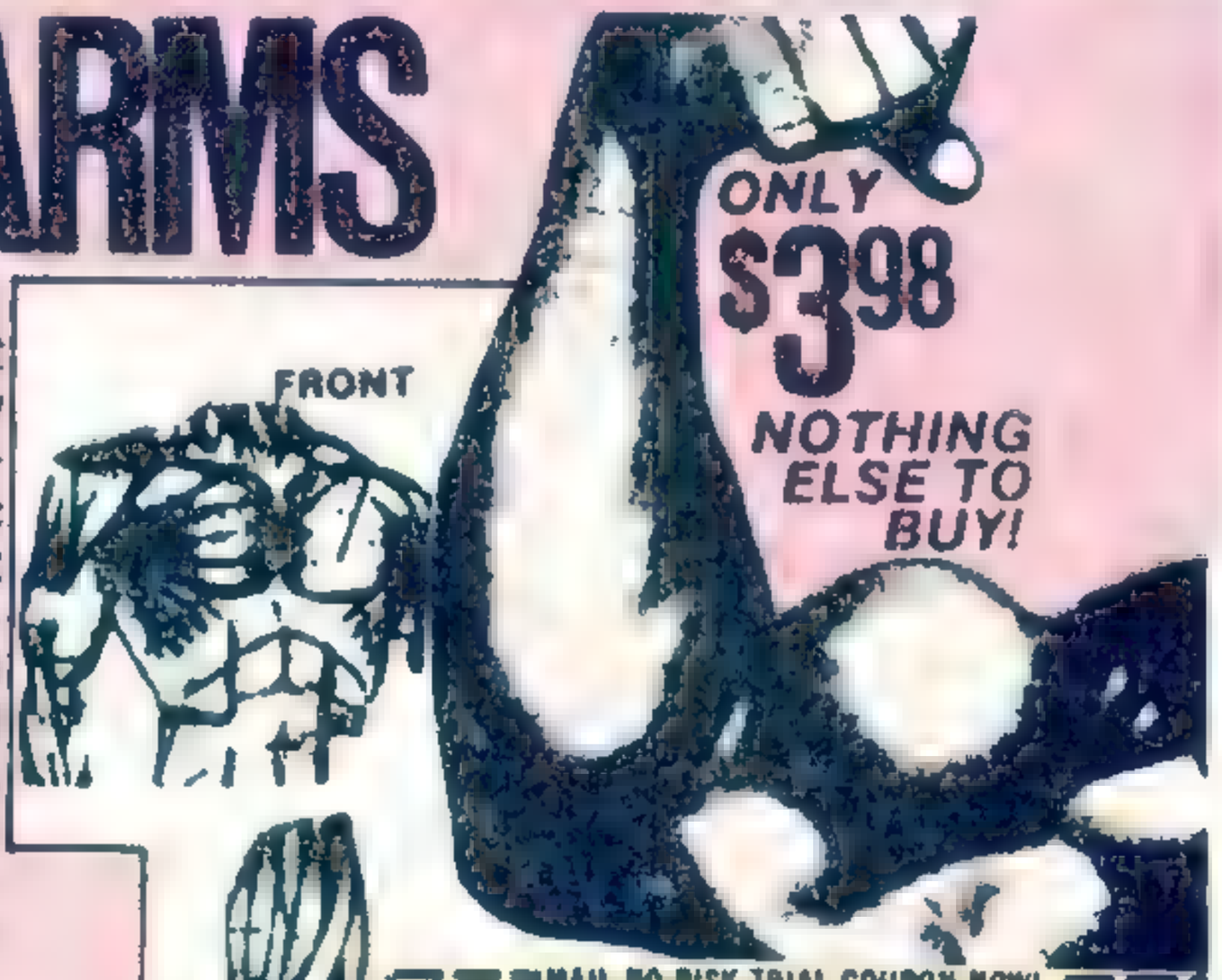

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HE'S TURNED *BLACK* ALL *OVER!* I-IT'S AS IF THE FORCE OF THE *ENERGY BLAST* TURNED HIM INTO... INTO SOME KIND OF *ASH!*

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RAC SHADE IS DEAD--!!!

RAC SHADE, *DEAD?* HAS THE INCREDIBLE *CHANGING MAN* MET HIS DOOM AT LAST? ONLY *TIME* WILL REVEAL THE STARTLING *ANSWER!* FOR AT THIS MOMENT, WE MUST SWITCH TO--

--SUDE'S TRAINING SCHOOL, WHERE...

UNPALATABLE THOUGH THE TRUTH MAY *BE*, I MUST *ACCEPT* IT! SUDE, THE *SUPREME DECIDER*, IS *DEAD!* META IS NO LONGER THE IDEAL ZONE FOR EITHER *MYSELF* OR *MY STUDENTS!*

BUT THERE *IS* A ZONE FOR WHICH OUR TALENTS AND TRAINING ARE IDEALLY *SUITED*... A ZONE WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TRAINING TO CONQUER FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF *SUDE!*

YES, I AND MY STUDENTS *MUST MIGRATE* TO THAT OTHER ZONE! FOR IF I ACT *BOLDLY* AND WITH *DARING*, THE ENTIRE *EARTH-ZONE* WILL BE MINE TO *RULE!*

THE END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN MARCH

mysterious messages to the META-ZONE

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor,

The first two issues of **SHADE** have been truely excellent. You have a good team going here.

Steve, you're obviously one of the finest talents around and **SHADE** is on of the best things I've ever seen you do. The artwork is beautiful, and the concept and characters are your best in a regular series (although MR. A still my favorite.).

Form was great! I hope you find a way to revive her

I noticed in the review of the first issue that there were two complaints about **SHADE**: First, that there were too many words in the story. I disagree. Comics are shrinking these days, and these first two issues had alot more content that most others I've read recently. Mike's dialogue is meshing well with Steve's visuals. I think the balance is just right as is.

The second complaint was a concern that **SHADE** might not fit into the established **DC** universe. Phooey! Don't stifle creativity for fear that perhaps something SHADE does contridicts what **SUPERMAN** said 'way back in issue **#53** of his comic! That's an exaggeration, but you know what I mean. When Jack Kirby was permitted to take creative reins at **DC** he did some of his finest work, mainly the whole Fourth World series. Let Steve go ahead, and I know that we'll see some real genius.

Lastly, the coloring is the finest around. Hats off to Liz and Steve in this respect. And make SHADE monthly!

Steve Robertson
4811 Grace
Cypress, California 90630

Far-fetched as some people believe, there is a very good possibility that SHADE COULD go monthly. If response to the second issue is good (and we're waiting for sales reports at this very moment) you might be reading the newest installment of SHADE every 30 days! Steve Ditko is one of the industry's fastest artists and could handle the extra work load with ease (at least we THINK he could—we haven't even ASKED him yet!).

As for coloring, welcome back to Carl Gafford, who did a eye-blazing job last issue! Thanks, Carl! —JCH

Dear Editor,

Boy, **SHADE #1** was such a lousy issue, I had no hope for the series. But it certainly picked up since then. Both Form and Cloak were typical Ditko weirdies, and two of the best villains he's ever done. (Sude, also is intriguing Let me guess—he's Mellu's father, right?) **(Wrong!—JCH)**

I'm still not too intrigued by **SHADE** himself Understand—his changing trick generally isn't interesting, even in a visual medium like a comic book The only time he's used it effectively was this issue (**SHADE #4**, "To Rescue My Destroyer") on page six, where his rage was so dramatically presented by his distorted form. Put him in more emotionally-laden moments like this one, please, where the distorted form is a result of his own emotions, rather than those of the foes he encounters.

And that bit of the Area of Madness on page 7 was the weirdest thing I have **ever** seen in Ditko art, bar none! Not even Doc Strange in his heyday was this weird Keep it up!

I'm glad that you are keeping **SHADE** a little isolated from the other **DC** heroes for now. You're basically setting the framework for a vastly different comic book, and you're still groping for its direction. Once in a while a crossover might be interesting—but it should occur logically in the **SHADE** framework—such as **SHADE** discovering the Phantom Zone in his inter-dimensional travels and getting mixed up with the prisoners therein, or a **Justice League** member crossing over to Earth-2 getting accidentally stranded in the Meta-Zone

But as for **SHADE** himself—I have trouble seeing where this magazine is going. Sooner or later, Mellu is going to find out the truth, as are the authorities. And without the "manhunt" theme, I fear our interest in **SHADE** himself will totally disappear.

Some suggestions for future issues: Keep villains such as Form and the Cloak, rather than the duller ones like Golaza this issue. An occasional crossover **would** be appreciated; such as a dimension-spanning heroes as **SUPERMAN** or **GREEN LANTERN** or the **FLASH** could get involved rather easily . . . but only occasionally. You might have **SHADE** sentenced and, instead of prision, banished to yet-another dimensional zone, almost as horrifying as the Area of Madness, from which he would have to escape. Also, have him return to Earth part of the time. (What if a human found out the truth about the Metans among us? How would he react?)

And a few crossovers of a rather different nature might be interesting—say, if **SHADE** discovered another "zone," analogous to the Earth-Zone and the Meta-Zone where **STALKER** (of the old Ditko mag) lives

Well, good luck guys. I'm still buying . . . for now.

Al Schroder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd.
Nashville, Tenn. 37215

Interesting, Al, very interesting . . . You first state that SHADE might lose its entertainment value in the near future, then you lay a number of story possibilities on us.It's just as if you've stated the large potential that SHADE presents. We're well aware of it and be assured we'll exploit it to the fullest! The CLOAK returns next issue, but no crossovers are planned.—JCH

COMING THIS SUMMER!! THE DC EXPLOSION! OMAC

DC Publishorial

A Word About the Fight of the Century

Now that we've gone the distance, I can tell you the truth about SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Not the whole truth, of course, but enough of it to whet your appetite without pulling any punches.

First, the simple truth. The book—after fifteen grueling, tension-packed months—is a knockout.

All you comic fans have been awaiting this tabloid for over a year. But SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI now has the non-comic book world clamoring for seats. Ever since the New York *Village Voice* splashed news of the match-up across its front page, nationwide coverage of the book has reached that pitch of childish excitement which only adults can generate.

If somehow you missed the hoopla, let me fill you in.

SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI should be appearing on your newsstand just in time for the New Year. It is without a doubt the most extraordinary over-sized comic book ever produced. Better than SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN? You can't even compare the two. Just start with the Superman-Ali cover and you'll see why.

The cover wraps around the book so that unfolded it's a poster-size image. As you'd predict, Superman and Ali are slugging it out in the ring. Cheering them on is an impassioned throng. But not your run-of-the-mill spectators. They're the people you'd imagine would actually turn up at a fight like this: Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, Lucille Ball, Pele, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Carson, and even President Carter with Rosalynn at his side.

Who else? Well, naturally, fight promoter Don King, and Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad and his trainer Bundini Brown.

In Superman's corner? The whole raft of DC superstars in their civilian identities. Plus the entire DC staff, a fleet of artists and writers, and the heads of Galaxy Communications (in *their* civilian identities as the heads of Warner Communications).

We had to get permission from every one of those people whose visage appears on the book. Neal Adams (who has executed not only the cover but also each interior page with a lavishness of detail unsurpassed in any comic book) spent weeks drawing individual portraits. When we finally finished with this piece of insanity, there were over one hundred and fifty real people at ringside. We've thoughtfully provided an identifying key so that you, too, can go a little crazy and match the faces with the names.

Credit goes to Julie Schwartz for starting us in the first place. For his efforts on the book, Julie has won this decade's Job award for extreme forebearance beyond the capacity of mortal editors. It was nearly two years ago that Julie made his fatal mistake. The champ was in town and SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN was on the newsstand.

"Ha-ha," said Julie, brilliantly merging the two events. "SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Now *that's* a good one."

And with those words he sealed his doom.

Jest became joust. Our man against theirs. Where was Don King? We had a fight to arrange!

Don was charming but alarming, he hustled, we haggled, he was outrageous, we were courageous; when he demanded 700 percent we held firm and walked out.

Lawyers, phone calls, meetings, meetings, phone calls, phone calls. Two months later we had a deal—with Don. We still had to make a deal with Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad. Herbert's terms were simple. Total approval of everything.

"It's the only way," he said to me. We were sitting at his kitchen table in Chicago. I wanted his total approval of the story and Neal's first drawings.

The phone over Herbert's head rang. He tilted back his chair to answer it, cited a foreign country, and named a multi-million dollar figure.

"Wait a minute," he said into the receiver and turned to me.

"Do you have a pen? I never can find one when I need one," he apologized.

I took out a pen and told Herbert to keep it. From then on, we were working together.

"Now for the plot," said Herbert, hanging up the phone. Why don't you read it to me?"

So I started to read it and ended up telling it.

"It's good, it's good," Herbert beamed. "It sounds more exciting than the movie script we're considering."

He looked at the three drawings of Ali with infinite care. Minutes passed. Finally, he said:

"They're good, too, but tell the artist to fatten Ali's calves when he does the book. Ali's legs are stronger than that."

Once I returned from Chicago, Neal began laying out pages based on the synopsis that Denny O'Neil and Julie had cooked up. When the first double-page spread came in, we were blown out. No alien spaceships, no intergalactic battle, simply a street in Harlem. But what a street! So packed with the overflow of humanity and visual vignettes that you can study the scene for an hour and still find something new.

On the other hand, the story centers not just on a climactic fight between Earth's two supermen but also on an equally climactic bid for interplanetary control. SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI does have alien spaceships, intergalactic battles and pyrotechnical treats.

It also has Dick Giordano's superlative inks, Terry Austin's mind-boggling backgrounds, Neal's own fine writing, and Herbert Muhammad's total approval every step of the way.

Who wins? All of us. It's been a long, hard fight to put out this incredible book. But we feel like champions. When you see how stupendous the tabloid is, you'll be glad you fought for your copy.

Have a happy, healthy New Year—

Jenette

FREE

Booklet

SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

YOU'LL PUT ON INCHES OF POWERFUL MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!

Our New System will develop muscles so fantastic that your muscles and strength will seem to be almost Super-Human! Thousands have doubled or tripled their strength while following our unique methods. It is actually possible to have everyday muscular growth while following our body-building system! Imagine what you could accomplish while following our methods? Regardless of the shape you're in, WE CAN IMPROVE YOUR BODY 100%! Your own friends won't recognize your body when we get done with it. FANTASTIC, BUT TRUE!

This system is actually 200 to 300% more effective in muscle-building than any form of isometrics. Don't confuse this method with any form of isometrics — this is a 'full-contractional' body-building system. Full Contractional Methods enable you to obtain a FULL MUSCLE PUMP — which is absolutely necessary in muscular growth. Our methods leave nothing to chance — our system develops your body TOTALLY!

TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...

- BUILD POWERFUL MUSCLES....FAST!
- LOSE FAT!
- GAIN MUSCULAR WEIGHT!
- DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH!
- TRIM YOUR WAIST!
- FEEL BETTER

Shape-Up, Get that waistline down and muscularize it!

GET INTO SHAPE

LIKE MORE FACTS?

We'll be glad to send you free colorful brochures and even a free booklet. All you have to do is send us your name and address.

SKINNY?

MUSCLES WILL APPEAR . . . ALMOST LIKE MAGIC!

FAT?

FAT WILL DISAPPEAR — REPLACED BY MUSCLES!

YOUR NEW MUSCLES WILL FEEL LIKE DYNAMITE!!

BE GREAT - BE SOMEBODY SPECIAL!

Improve your health, self-confidence and your outlook on life as you become more muscular. Regardless of your age, height or present build, we'll help you build a fabulous body. Thousands of people have taken this course with fantastic results — why not you? Whatever you look like today, we can improve on it. We guarantee it!!!

- ☐ **ARMS** — Develop big, powerful arms — the kind girls love to be held in! Command respect from everyone you meet!
- ☐ **CHEST** — Is your chest sunken and unimpressive? No more! It's easy to build a massive chest. You can measure 45, 47, or even 50 inches!
- ☐ **BACK** — Develop your upper back, and get that outstanding "V-Shape!" Often within one week you'll be able to see that wedge formation begin to take shape — it's a real attention-getter!
- ☐ **SHOULDERS** — Get rid of those puny shoulders! Instead, fill your shirts with bulging muscles!
- ☐ **LEGS** — Put some muscle on those spindly legs! Muscular legs will give you extra power like you've never dreamed possible!
- ☐ **ABDOMEN** — Trim and hard — that's the way your abs should look. Get rid of your pot-belly, improve your digestion, and get that washboard waist—all when you develop those abdominal muscles!

FREE!

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Box 6694
Detroit, Mich. 48240

You bet I want MUSCLES - rush me your FREE Booklet and all your Colorful Brochures!! I am sending you 25c to help cover postage and handling costs. (please PRINT clearly)

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TO JOIN THE CLUB, call our FREE MemberPhone number, and give operator your name and address. *OR* – fill in your return address on label – paste or tape label to the front of your own envelope, and mail. No postage required! Either way, we'll send you – ABSOLUTELY FREE – the Olympic All-Occasion Sample Book, Membership Card, and FREE PRIZE CATALOG. You pay nothing – owe nothing! Just show your Sample Book to friends, neighbors, relatives – start taking orders and earning prizes – NOW!

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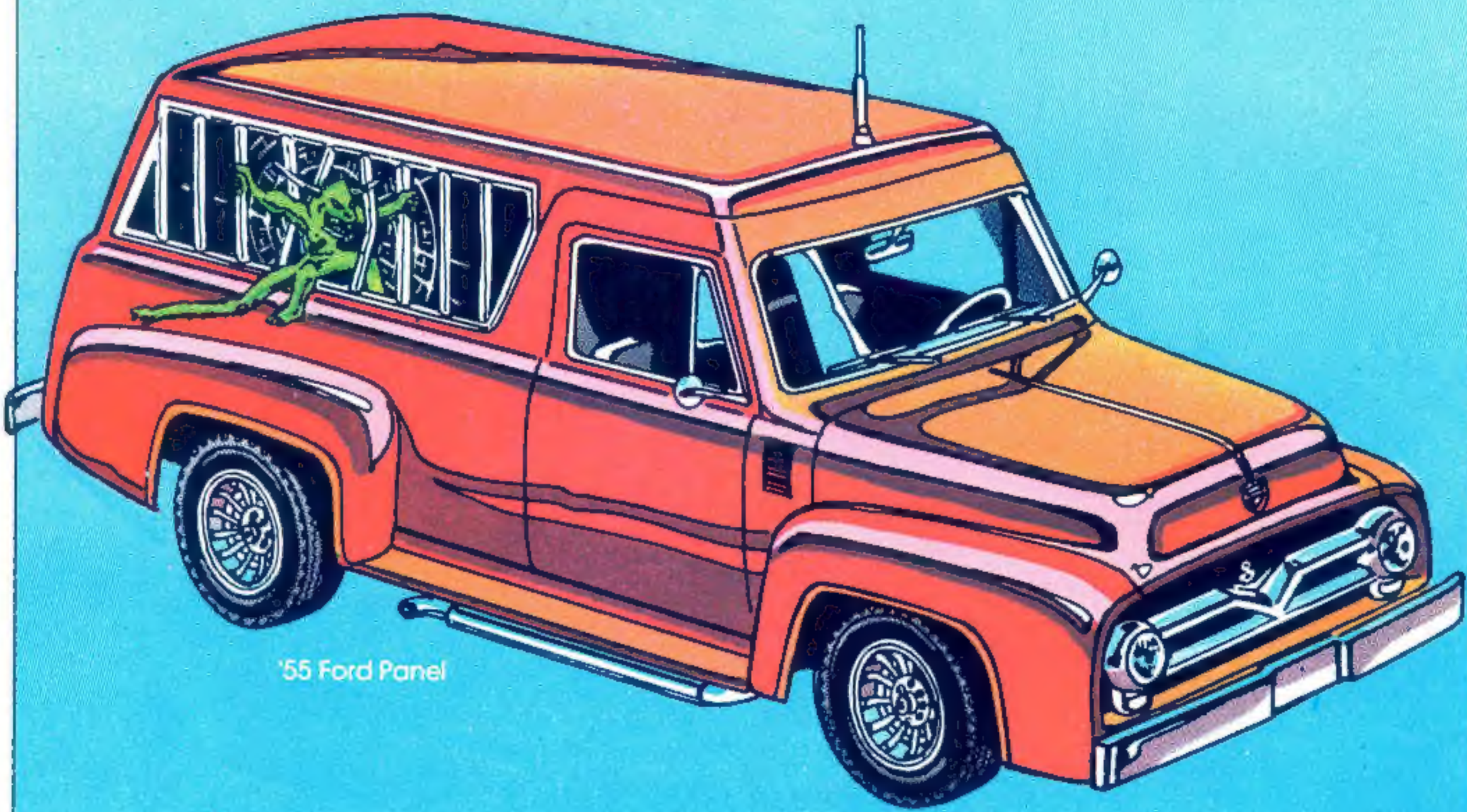
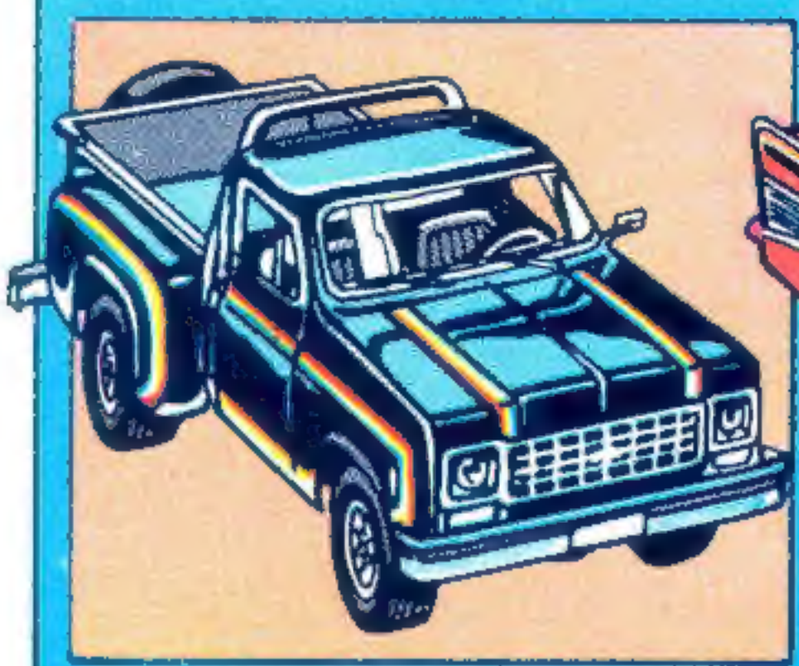
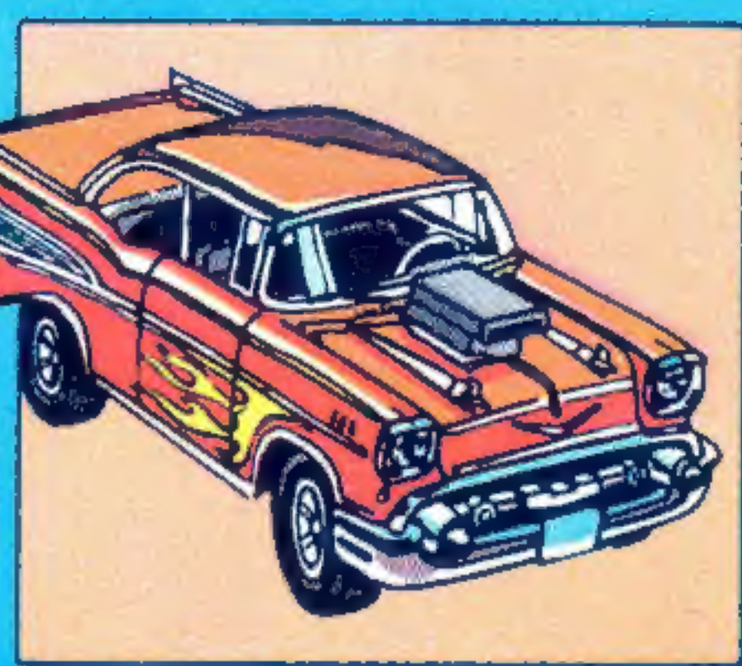


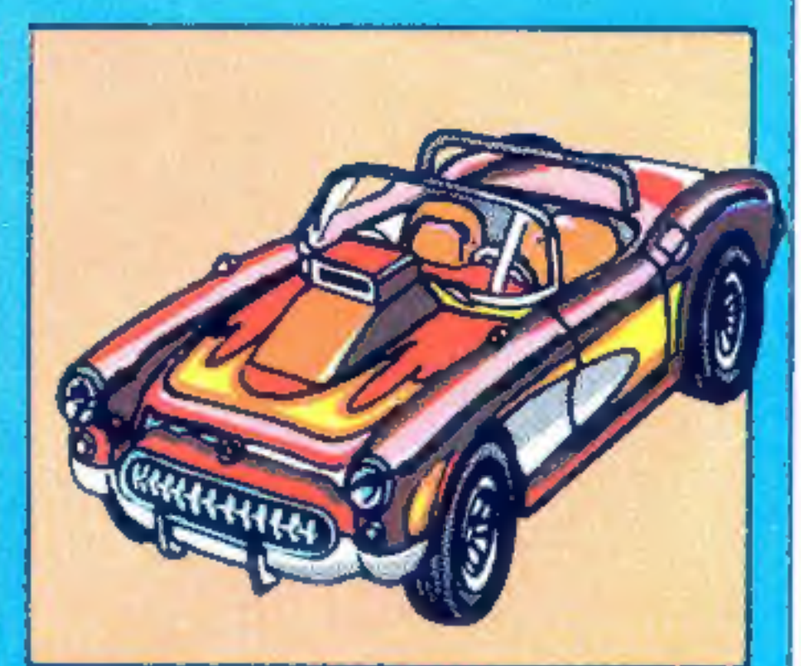
'55 Ford Panel



Chevy Sport Pick-up



'57 Chevy Hardtop



'57 Corvette